

Lords Iustices of England, wherein they are said to be Lib. H. D.
witnesses to attest the truth thereof, upon w^{ch} account they
were now summoned and therefore did require that they
would answer severally upon their Oaths what they had to
say in every of the said articles.

Articles of Charge ag^t Francis Nicholson Govern^r of Mary-
land &^{ca}

1st He intercepts and causes to be intercepted packetts
and Letters directed to persons in Maryland and Virginia and
elsewhere to the great prejudice of those concern'd.

M^{rs} Mary Vanswaringhen, M^r George Plater, M^r Sam^{ll}
Wattkins & Henry Denton Witnesses Nominated to attest
the s^d Article were called and severally sworn before the
Honord Thomas Tasker Esq^r one of his Maj^{tes} Iustices of the
Provincial Court in presence of his Maj^{tes} Hono^{ble} Council, to
declare what they knew as to the said Article, w^{ch} was
deliberately and distinctly read unto them; who upon their
Oaths do severally say They know of nothing wherein they
can charge his Ex^{ncy} the Govern^r with any such thing But
M^{rs} Vanswaringhen says she once rec'd a Letter for Cap^t
Cood, w^{ch} Cap^t Slye took from her and would not let her have
it againe, thô he promised upon the word of a Gentleman to
Return it to her, She faithfully promising to gett it safely
convey'd to him the said Cood. Henry Denton saith that his
Ex^{ncy} has been so farr from intercepting of Letters that he
has at all times used his utmost Endeavour & care in Order-
ing the quick and speedy dispatch of all Letters to the
severall p^{rs}ons to whom directed.

M^r Sam^{ll} Watkins saith that Cap^t Slye & he went on Board
the Shipp Globe (Cap^t Harriss Com^{mander}) at her first arrivall
in Patuxent River last year, where they met wth M^r Plater & p. 625
some other persons on board; after some discourse passed
Cap^t Slye asked Cap^t Harriss for his List of Letters, who told
him he had no list, but would shew him what he had, where-
upon after perusall of the same, the s^d Cap^t Slye took a
packet directed for his Ex^{ncy} S^r Edmund Andros his Maj^{tes}
Govern^r of Virginia, another for the Com^{odore} then in
Virginia, according to the best of his remembrance, and
severall others directed for persons in Potomock, w^{ch} the s^d
Slye undertook to gett safely conveyed as directed.

George Plater Esq^r does also attest the same, and says he
told Cap^t Slye there was an Ordinance of Assembly for taking
care of Letters therefore willed him to see those Letters w^{ch}
he took should be all sent away and deliver'd.

5th Article read, Viz^t He hath often by an Arbitrary &
Military power seiz'd mens Estates & Writings

M^r Sam^{ll} Cooksey, M^r James Crauford, John Shanks