

At a Council held at the Port of Annapolis the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Lib. H. D. febr<sup>ry</sup> 1697/8. in the tenth year of Maj<sup>tes</sup> Reign.

Present.

His Ex<sup>ncy</sup> ffran<sup>s</sup> Nicholson Esq<sup>r</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> &<sup>ca</sup>

S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Laurence Baron<sup>tt</sup> Sec<sup>ry</sup> }

Thomas Tench Esq<sup>r</sup> }

Edward Randolph Esq<sup>r</sup> }

It being considered that his Maj<sup>tes</sup> Royal Comānds is not yet come to hand, and that it hath pleased Almighty God th<sup>t</sup> the weather continues still so sharp and severe that it is imagined severall of his Maj<sup>tes</sup> writts of Election for the Assembly meeting at this place 23<sup>d</sup> of febr<sup>ry</sup> instant are scarce got over to the Eastern Shore and for that reason will occasion but a small appearance of Members, whereby to proceed business; therefore thought necessary that the said Assembly be deferred, putt off and prorogued until the eighth day of March next. Upon consultation had concerning the legall way & manner of prorogueing an Assembly before their being met, and a case being cited out of my Lord Cooke touching the manner of holding Parliaments which was produced and read by M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Gouldesborough one of his Maj<sup>tes</sup> Counsell at Law, being called for his Opin<sup>ion</sup> & Advice therein, whereby there appears an absolute necessity for the meeting some of the House of Delegates, at the day & place by his Maj<sup>tes</sup> Writt of Elections appointed Ordered therefore that the Sheriffs of Ann Arrundell, Calvert & Prince Georges Countyes forthwith upon sight hereof give notice to the Delegates and Representatives chosen to serve for the said three Counties that they in no wise omit nor faile being here by the 23<sup>th</sup> of febr<sup>ry</sup> instant, the time appointed by his Maj<sup>ty</sup> said Writt of Election in Order to a prorogation of the said Assembly intended (God willing) to be deferred & putt off until the eighth day of March next; but that writts in the interim issue under the Broad Seale to the severall Sheriffs of the Province to give notice and the reason of such intended prorogation to prevent the rest of the Delegates meeting and save a further charge to the Countrey. p. 630

The writt follows viz<sup>t</sup>

Maryland ss

William the third by the Grace of God of England Scotland ffrance & Ireland King Defender of the ffaith &<sup>ca</sup>  
To the Sheriff of ——— County Greeting.

Whereas by our certain writt of Election unto you directed bearing date the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Ian<sup>ry</sup> last past., thereby Empow-