

Lib. H. D. At a Councill met and held at the Port of Annapolis
the 21th day of ffeb^{ry} 1697/8 in the tenth year of
his Majesties Reign.

Present

His Ex^{ncy} Francis Nicholson Esq^r Cap^t Gen^l &^{ca}
S^r Thomas Laurence Baron^t Sec^{ry}
Coll^o Henry Iowles
Edw^d Randolph Esq^r

Ordered that a writt of Prorogation be prepared to prorogue
the Assembly (for the reasons last Councill mention'd until
p. 632 the eighth day of March next, w^{ch} accordingly was done &
read together wth a Comission or power to swear the Dele-
gates; both w^{ch} were by Order referred unto M^r Rob^t Gouldes-
borough his Maj^{tes} Counsell at Law for his perusall & opinion
thereon.

Vpon a question proposed who would be a fitt person to
be constituted Clerk of the House of Delegates; it is unani-
mously concluded and agreed that M^r Bladen the former
Clerk will be the most fit and capable person for th^t employ
and therefore ordered that a Comission be prepared ac-
cordingly to pass the Broad Seale of the Province.

Produced and read a Letter by his Ex^{ncy} rec^d from M^r In^o
West Naval Officer of Pocomoke district, bearing date the
20th of December last past relating to severalls—Ordered
that answer thereto be given in the following particulars
viz^t 1st as to Vessells clearing; That they be cleared as fast
as got ready, now in time of peace.

2nd As to the Sloop Content of Bermudos, Ieremiah
Smith Mast^r The same is contain'd in Major Kings List of
Shipping.

3^d As to the dispute about 18 foot boats being quallified
for Navigation pursuant to Act of Assembly the same seems
to be rather a jest then matter of Law; therefore he is to take
good care.

4^{thly} As to that about the Porke—He must take care to
pursue the Law.

5^{thly} As to that about Rum & Suger being prohibited
from England This Board know nothing of it nor the
meaning thereof.

6^{thly} As to the New England man;—He is not to be per-
mitted to carry tobacco to Newfound Land; but may Provi-
sion. Produced and read a Letter by his Ex^{ncy} rec^d from
M^r John George of Boston, Dated 27th of Decem^r last past,
signifying his late recept^t of a Commission from the Prize
Office, Superseeding a Comission formerly granted unto
M^r Peter Ienings to receive the Kings fifth part of prizes in