

ffeb^{ry} the 23^d 1697/8

Lib. H. D.

The Council again sate and were present as before.

Produced and read a Letter by his Ex^{ncy} rec^d from M^r In^o West Naval Officer of Pocomoke district; signifying his rec^t of a Letter from the Hono^{ble} Edward Randolph Esq^r dated 30th December 1697. Concerning two vessells Loading Tobacco in that district, whereof his Hono^r signified there was cause of suspicion, therefore sent both their Certificates for examination &^{ca} which were also produced and compared with the Comissioners hands in other papers; but upon strict view and Examination the said Esq^r Randolph was thoroughly satisfied in the Legality of the same.

Upon motion of Cap^t Will^m Cooper Comānder of the Ieofferyes, the following warrant was ordered to issue Viz^t

By his Ex^{ncy} the Govern^r and Council ffeb^{ry} 23^d 1697/8 Whereas complaint and application hath this day been made unto this Board by Cap^t Will^m Cooper Comānder of the Shipp Ieofferyes Riding in Seavorn River; concerning some Goods (belonging to M^r Iohn Sheffield Merchant) suspected to be feloniously taken from a board a Shallop of his, now lying sunk at Popleys Island, the w^{ch} a couple of Cap^t Coopers Seamen Viz^t Isaac Hammerton and Walter Needham had been employed by the said M^r Sheffield to bring round from Patuxent to West River about a fortnight or three weeks agoe; but through stress of weather were cast on Shore Coll^o Lowes Island where the men got safe to Land; but the Goods and Shallop afterwards driven away, and the Shallop found at the place and in the Condition before expressed without the Goods.

These are therefore in his Majestyes name to authorize & impower the aforementioned Isaac Hammerton & Walter Needham in the presence of a Constable (or other Officer) to make search in any suspected place or places in or about the said Popleys Island, Plantation or Houses or in any other suspected part or place on the Eastern or Western Shore; as also to examine & search any Sloop, Shallop, Boat or other Vessel or bottom within this Province; and (if occasion) to break open any Lock, dore, Truss, parcell or package, where they shall reasonably suspect the said Goods to lye hid; and if to be found, the said two men and Officer are hereby Required to take into custody the party or parties in whose possession the said Goods or any of them shall be found, and them safely convey and carry before the next Magistrate or Iustice of the peace in Order to be dealt withall according to law; And all Sherriffs, under Sherriffs, Constables and others Officers within this his Majestyes Province are (upon application of the said Hammerton and Needham) strictly required to be aiding