

I am likewise to beg yo<sup>r</sup> Lordp<sup>s</sup> pardon for not sending P. R. O. yo<sup>r</sup> Lordp<sup>s</sup> the journals, publick Papers &c. sooner. But M<sup>r</sup> Henry Denton dying before he had been able to form the journal of Council, and of that in Assembly; I have found a great deal of difficulty in compleating them from his Minutes. But I hope they are as truly done, as if, please God, he had liv'd & finish'd them. Another Reason, is the great scarcity of good Clerks; (so that I am almost forced to make according to the proverb Bricks without straw) only M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Blaiden whome I have found the most capable in all Respects, I have removed from being Clark of the House of Delegates, to that of the Council: and therefore it is, that he now signs all the Journals, both of Council, and of the House of Delegates. And N<sup>o</sup> 1. is an Account of them, and of the laws made in March last.

I have at last had the good Fortune of receiving yo<sup>r</sup> Lordp<sup>s</sup> Commands in the Duplicat of yo<sup>r</sup> Lordp<sup>s</sup> Letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 7ber last, which Col. Robert Quarry gave me. And that w<sup>ch</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> Lordp<sup>s</sup> sent by his Majestys Advice-Boat the Swift, I hear was broken open, and read by some people in North Carolina, and afterwards burnt. And I suppose his Excy S<sup>r</sup> Edmund Andross hath given yo<sup>r</sup> Lordp<sup>s</sup> a full Account of that Affair. And N<sup>o</sup> 2 is a Copy of Cap<sup>tn</sup> N. Bostock Commander of the sd. vessel his Letter about her.

With humble submission to yo<sup>r</sup> Lordp<sup>s</sup> I think it absolutely necessary for his Majestys Service, that an other be sent with all Expedicon. For besides looking after illegal Trade, Privateers, & Pyrates here, and in Pensylvania; such a Force will be an awe upon any who design an Insurrection or Disturbance; and will also be one way to prevent seamen from running away, and being refractory and mutinous aboard their ships; by changing or punishing of them (For I have had several Complaints about these things. And N<sup>o</sup> 3 is a Copy of a Peticōn signed by several Comānders of ships and vessels; as also of my Proclamacon thereupon. But so long as they are countenanced and harbored in Pensylvania, tis impossible wholly to remedy these two Evils; because the seamen can so easily get thither, both from Virginy and this Province.) As also to assist any ship or vessel that shall spring a leak, or whose Seamen may be sick of a seagoing: both which have this year happened to some.

When it pleaseth God that any of these four Accidents happens to a ship or vessel; one is in danger of having her voyage overthrown: or at best, very much retarded.

I have observed that if a Ship or Vessel can but (please God) get clear of Capes, they will venture with a few hands. And others, thō they be sickly of the seasoning, will venture