

Maryland ss<sup>t</sup>

Att a Councill in Assembly held att the Town and Porte of Annapolis on Thirsday the Eighth day of May in the Thirteenth Year of the reign of our Sovereigne Lord William the third by the Grace of God of England Scotland France & Ireland King Defender of the Faith &<sup>c</sup> Annoq Dni 1701.

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Present

His Excellency Nathaniel Blakiston Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Cap<sup>t</sup> Generall & Governo<sup>r</sup> in Chief of this  
Province

The Hon<sup>r</sup><sup>ble</sup> { Tho<sup>s</sup> Tench Esq<sup>r</sup> } Robert Smith Esq<sup>r</sup>  
                  { James Frisby Esq<sup>r</sup> } Col<sup>o</sup> J<sup>no</sup> Hammond  
                  { Tho<sup>s</sup> Brooke Esq<sup>r</sup> } Francis Jenkins Esq<sup>r</sup>

His Excellency is pleased to lay before the Board what he Intends to say to the house of Delegates of Assembly now returned to Serve att this Sessions and Asks their Advice thereon whether the same be Proper or not to which they answer they do Conceive it very Proper and Advisable being as followeth.

Gent<sup>n</sup>

The last Assembly having Continued some Years I was Advised by his Ma<sup>ty</sup><sup>s</sup> Councill here that Notwithstanding all things had been hapily Enacted and Concerted by them for the Advantage of the Province yet it would be to the Generall Satisfaction of the Inhabitants to have a New Election wherein I am Glad to find so good a Judgment of the People in sending so many of you whose Services in the former Session have so well deserved from them as also the other Gent<sup>n</sup> that appear with you whose Characters stand very fair with me

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I must Confess I am much in the Dark as to the State of our Laws which are of the greatest moment to us and were sent home the last Assembly, and was not without hopes, that long ere this I should have rec<sup>d</sup> some Instructions Concerning them, That if there had been any irregularity or false steps therein to have had it Corrected this Sessions, But some unexpected Accidents as we are Informed have alarm'd Europe and no Ships Arriving from thence in some Time we may Justly Conjecture has been the reall Impediment, but we are Crown'd with That blessing of having a Prince and Patron