

Said Province without his Matys Express Order for that Purpose, So We bid you heartily Farewel Lib. H. D.

Your very Loving Friends

Reflecting upon what yo<sup>r</sup> Predecessor, Colonel Nicholson has formerly Signified to us Concerning Forts in Maryland that they are of no use for the Defence of that Country. We think it So much the more Necessary that due Care be taken for regulating the Militia, and that they be so disciplined and Trained as to render them Usefull whenever there may be occasion And We therefore particularly recomend that Matter to your Care.

Stamford  
Lexington  
Ph: Meadows  
John Pollexfen  
Abr: Hill  
Geo: Stepney  
Mat: Prior

At a Council held at the Town & Port of Annapolis in Ann Arundel County the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December in the tweth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King William the third of England &c<sup>a</sup> Annoq Dni 1700 Lib. X  
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Present

His Excellency the Governor

the honble { Tho Tench Esq<sup>r</sup>      Tho Brook Esq<sup>r</sup> }  
                  { Col<sup>o</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Addison    Col<sup>o</sup> John Hamm<sup>d</sup> }

The Council representing to his Excellency that whereas this present General Assembly now on Foot had continued near three years they did believe it would be to the General Satisfaction of the Country they should be dissolved in the Spring & a new one called His Excellency was pleased to assent thereto but withal Declared that having no Instructions from his most Sacred Majesty the Right honble the Lords Commrs of trade & Foreign Plantations &c<sup>a</sup> in that point to follow the late act of Parliament made in his Majestys Kingdom of England for dissolution of the Parliament there every three years he did not hold himself obliged to follow that Example here not knowing how far it might be agreeable to his Majestys Inclinations And least it should be drawn into President hereafter p. 269

Then was proposed how the Assembly should be Dissolved whether by their meeting or Proclamation to the respective counties resolved that it should be by writt framed for that purpose to the several Counties by reason of the Great charge & inconveiniency nay almost impossibility of their meeting this Winter all the delegates on the eastern shore being to