

Government during the Absence, or on the Death or Removal of our Lieutenant Governour for the time being.

6. You shall either by Proclamation or otherwise Prorogue the Assembly to some day in the month of Aprill which shall be in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred & Twenty.

7: And Lastly we Strictly Comand & Require you the said John Hart And all other our Officers and Ministers within our s^d Province of Maryland to be Assisting to his Maj^{ty}s Officers of the Customes, as by Law you are Required to do, And not in the least to Obstruct his Maj^{ty}s Service under the Managem^t of the Comissioners of the Customs as by their Letter a Copy whereof we have herewith sent is Complain'd of.

Baltimore
Guilford

To the first Instruction.

His Excellency Observes to this Board that he has Comply'd therewith.

To the 2^d

His Excellency Observes that his Maj^{ty} of his Great Bounty, and out of his Compassion Agreeable to his Princely nature (which his Excellency Acknowledges with all Duty and Humility) In Regard to his Excellency's Health (Notwithstanding he presumes his Majesty is not altogether unacquainted of other Reasons for his Desiring to Return to Great Britain) has Permitted him to be Absent for the Space of Twelve Months from this Governm^t without Limitting him to any time to depart in.

And that their Lordships Lycence does not Oblige him to any. But that their Lordships by this Instruction Tyes him up to Depart in three months if possible. Which he Declares he Cannot Possibly Comply with for these Reasons.

First.

That notwithstanding their Instructions are dated 23^d of March 1718 They did not Come to his hands till the 26th of August 1719. And then Delivered by the hands of Cap^t Greenwood.

Secondly.

That there being many Pyrates on the Coast, And a Warr Declared with Spain, And the Spaniards Appearing within the Capes of Virginia, And the man of Warr Departed which Convoyed the Merchants Shipps from this Province, and the Colony of Virginia,

It is not Safe for him to Depart in a Single Ship most of the Ships being Departed from this Province. And there not being one left fitt to give him a Reception.