

[Pirates in Philadelphia.]

B. M.
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The Narrative of Cap^t Robert Sneed one of the Justices of the Peace in the Province of Pensilvania in America relateing the discourse between M^r Markham the Govern^r and himself about Pyrates & also his proceedings with those belonging to the ship Fancy (als Charles the Second) Henry Every als Bridgeman Comand^r during the time they were in Philadelphia both before & after his receiving the Proclamacion & Lett^r from the R^t Hon^{ble} the Lords Comm^{rs} for Trade made publick for the Justification of himself in his managem^t at that time.

About the latt^r End of Aprill 1697 there came to my hand a printed Copy of the Proclamation sett forth by the Lords Justices to Apprehend the Pyrates w^{ch} came away with the ship Fancy (als Charles the Second) from Corunna in Spaine Henry Every als Bridgeman Comand^r & such other persons as were with him in the s^d ship, in ord^r to have th^m punished as Pyrates & Common Robbers upon the high seas, I being then in the Commission of the Peace of the s^d Province, knowing that severall of those Pyrates were then in Philadelphia, went to the Govern^r (hearing th^t he also had seen a cobby of the s^d Proclamacion) I told him I had seen a Proclamacion from the Lords Justices for apprehending Pyrates & that Robert Chinton Edmund Lassell &^{ca} of Philadelphia were then in Town & were known to be some of those Pyrates; he told me he had not seen it (w^{ch} I could prove to the contrary by Robert Webb the late Coll^r who had some time before shewed him a copy of it) I replied if he pleased I would shew him a copy of it, he said it was not directed to him so that he was not bound to take Notice of it, nor to examine men from whence they came, so they brought money with them: I answered th^t this Proclamacion being directed to all his Maj^{ties} Govern^{rs} in the Plantations & all other Officers & persons whatsoever, I thought he being Govern^r was concern'd & that it would be for M^r Penns Interest & his own Safety to put it in Execution w^{ch} noe doubt would be a good Service & well taken at Home, for it would be soon known th^t such persons were here, he replied the Hublands ought to have writt to him; to w^{ch} I answer'd they would certainly have done so had they known that any of those Pyrates had been here, I being at th^t time very Intimate with him told him very plainly that there was a good understanding between him & the Pyrates, & none so blind as those th^t would not see; he said tis true the men had been civill to him, they had brought in money w^{ch} was an advantage to the Country, I then asked him how I could be discharged from my Oath as a Magestrate, if I did not take