

Original
Journal.

By his Ex^{ncy} the Governour and Council in Assembly
Decemb^r 7th. 1704.

Since the unhappy Accident of our Court house and some of our Laws burnt hath induced this Present meeting of the Countrey His Ex^{ncy} thought that it might conduce to the obviating the publiq Charge of detaining the Session for the transcribing them (some being very Long) to have the Bills which were Read in the house sent for from the late Speakers house in Charles County and having Ordered them to be Transcribed ag^t your meeting, They are with the original Draughts of the said Bills herewth Recomend^d to your Consideration for the Reenacting thereof if you see fitt

Signed p Ord^r W Bladen Cll Council.

Mr Sanders and Coll Holland sent with the other Message

By his Ex^{ncy} the Govern^r and Council in Assembly
December the 7th 1704

Gent.

The Misfortune of Ann Arundell County is perticularly deplorable in the Loss of all their Records being Burnt in the publiq Court house and Requires Your best thoughts to relieve the many Confusions & Perplexitys that County lyes now under. Wherefore we Desire Your Advice & Assistance in framing some Law which may settle the minds of the Inhabitants there and Confirme the Rights of severall now fresh in memory which by Length of time may be worne out to the prejudice of many

Signed p Ord^r W Bladen Cll Council

Came Col Smallwood and gave the following Account that according to his Ex^{ncys} Co^mand he took sixteen men and an Indian Interpreter in order to go to the Indians on the Forke of Potomeck. The first night they lay without the Inhabitants, And the snow being upon the Ground they saw no footing untill they came within a mile of the Forte where they heard an Indian cutting. Then they came to an Hutt whence they sent two Indians to go see for the Indians & Acquaint them that the English were come friendly to them & desired to Speake with them, Also sent Robin the Indian to see for the Indians who returned the next morning and told him He had been at one of the Indian Cabbins under the Mountayns but there were few at home the Chiefe of their greate menn being gone out a Bear-hunting. Says He. understands there had been a great Mortality among them, & to the Number of 57 men