

Lib. C. B. To His Excellency the Governor in Council

May it please Your Excellency

The Misfortune of having an Impediment in my Speech makes me choose to give my Answer in Writing than otherwise to M^r Smiths Complaint, wherein I shall be far from denying the Truth or justifying my own Conduct, what is mentioned in the Begining of the Complaint with Regard to the Assault committed by my Negro on Thomas Norris's Negro is very true, as it is that M^r Dulany wrote a kindly and friendly Letter to me as mentioned, upon the Receipt of which I immediately ordered the Negro to appear before M^r Smith who I dont question discharged his Duty as a Magistrate

p. 23 I also acknowledge on the Complaint of Jerome Plummer against some of my Negroes for stealing some Turkeys from him, M^r Smith issued his Warrant, and that the Constable came to my House & shewed it to me, upon which I told him that the Negroes were not at One Quarter, and that I would take Care they should appear before M^r Smith the Ensuing Tuesday at the Church, where I understood a Vestry was held, and that M^r Smith would be there as being Clerk of the Vestry and accordingly I caused the Negroes to go thither, but M^r Smith happened not to be there, and it was almost Night and very cold and One of the Negroes barefoot, and the rest very thinly clad, and therefore I ordered them home; I likewise acknowledge I put the Warrant in my Pockett, but I declare it was not with design to keep it, and that I intended to return it to the Constable, but he went away unknown to me, and I sent it him early next Morning by Virtue of which Warrant the same Constable afterwards apprehended the Slaves and carryed them before Mr. Smith, who ordered them to be corrected according to Law.

This is really the Truth, and I protest I had not the least Intention of contemning Authority, and that what I did was not the Effect of any personal Prejudice or Disregard to M^r Smith but entirely occasioned by Want of considering the Thing, as I ought to have done, upon the whole I submit to Your Excellencys Determination, and humbly hope for your Pardon & Indulgence for what is past for which I hope my future Conduct (which I intend shall be blameless and inoffensive) will attone

Sam Chew

It appearing to this Board that the said Samuel Chew had been guilty of a great Offence in the Obstruction of Justice, It is therefore Ordered by this Board that the Attorney General