

Lib. J. R. Instant being read, it is the Opinion and Advice of this  
& U. S. Board to his Excellency that he be pleased to acquaint Governor Dinwiddie thereof, and the following Letter being read was approved of and sent accordingly—

Annapolis March 30<sup>th</sup> 1756.

p. 92 Sr.

I send this to acquaint you with an unhappy Affair that I am told has lately happened at the Mouth of Conegocheige within this Province, I have my Information only from Report, but by what I can learn there was a Party of Colonel Washingtons Regiment posted somewhere in Virginia opposite the Place above mentioned; Lieutenant Gordon who commanded it, on some Account or other came over into Maryland, and falling into a Fray of which I cannot learn any thing particular, was killed by an Inhabitant of this province who was thereupon apprehended, but through the Ignorance of a County Justice was soon after admitted to Bail, As soon as I was advised thereof, I ordered a Provincial Warrant to be instantly issued requiring the Sheriff of Frederick County where the Fact was committed to take the Offender into Custody, and carry him before a Provincial Magistrate to be dealt with according to Law, and to take his trial, at the next Assizes for the County which Will be held at Frederick Town the fifth of May next, when the Attorney General will be sent up to prosecute, you will therefore be pleased to direct the surviving Officer of the abovementioned Party to order such Soldiers, or other Inhabitants of Virginia, as may have been Witnesses to this unhappy Accident to attend at the Assizes and give their Evidence. In case such Witnesses should be afraid of being molested (of which I think they have not the least Reason to be apprehensive) they shall on the Officer's making application either to the Court or myself have a Protection; which your Honour will be pleased to signify to him, that whatever might be the Issue of the Trial, there may not be the least Room given any Person whatever to insinuate hereafter, that every Step was not taken to bring the Criminal to condign Punishment. Your Honor will I hope be perswaded that every Measure shall be taken by this Government that is agreeable to Law, and Justice and believe that

I am

with great Regard

To

S<sup>r</sup> your most humble & m<sup>t</sup> obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

Governor Dinwiddie

Hor: Sharpe.