

At a Council held at the City of Annapolis on Tuesday the 29th day of December in the fifth year of his Lordships Dominion Annoque Domini 1755. Lib. J. R.
& U. S.

Present

His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq^r Governor

The honourable, Benjamin Tasker Esq^r Col Benjamin Tasker, Benedict Calvert Esq^r

Ordered that the following Letters Received by his Excellency be Entered

May it Please your Excellency and Honours.

We have received a Letter from M^r Ross Clerk of your honourable Board intimating that it has been reported that there have been lately some Tumultuous meetings and cabalings amongst the Negroes in some parts of this Province and that Persons of the Roman Catholick Persuasion have misbehaved in such a manner in some Countys as to give his Majestys Loyal Subjects Cause to fear an Insurrection desiring us to enquire and learn what foundation there is or what Cause has been given in our County to such Reports and if upon Examination there should Appear to have been Sufficient Cause given either by Papists Negroes or others for such Reports to Cause the offenders to be apprehended and either committ them to the Sheriffs Custody or oblige them to give Good Security for their appearance at the next Assizes and in the mean time to Advise your Excellency thereof, but if upon Examination had it should appear to us that such Rumours or Reports tending so much to the disquiet of his Majestys Subjects in this Province are intirely Groundless and without foundation we should then bind over to the next Assizes as disturbers of the Publick Peace whoever should Appear to be the Authors of such Rumours or to have industriously propagated such falsehoods Also that it has been intimated that some Roman Catholick Priests of this Province have been lately Absent from their usual Places of Residence a Considerable time desiring us to enquire if any Priest from our County has been so Absent and if it should by the Affidavit of any Evidence appear to us to have been the Case We should Summon such Priest before Us and if he should not give a very Satisfactory Account of himself and where he has been during his absence from home we should commit him to the Sheriffs Custody unless he should give good Security for his immediate Appearance before your Excellency & Honours whom we were instantly to Advise what we had done respecting such Priest and inform you