

Nelsons middle Room where they sometimes dress Victuals and U. H. J. there was a Company of about ten or Dozen men sitting in said Passage amongst which there was one man had a Sword by his Side (who as this deponent was inform'd was Major Samuel Perrie who upon sight of this Deponent damn'd him and [asked] him several times if he was for a Tobacco Law or not if he was he should have some Punch if he was not he should have none and that his Room was very good Company this deponent also saith that an Old man that lost some money at dice that night they call Drury swore that M^r Perrie or himself should fight him either with a Sword or without it this deponent further saith that it instantly came into his mind of Mobs that constrains Persons either to Agree with their Sentiments or to be knocked down the Consequence that might happen he did not know however answered 'em as followeth, first that if he wanted any Punch he could have it without being Obliged to them, Secondly that his declaring himself for or against a Tobacco Law wou'd be of no Service to the Country because he had no vote in the House of Assembly but as he had a Family to maintain shou'd be very glad of a Tobacco Law provided 'twas a good one, Thirdly he further saith he told 'em that if he had disobliged any of the Company he should think it his duty to ask Pardon but inasmuch as he knew he had given no Offence he made use of this extravagant Expression viz. that he would as soon be damn'd to a Trifle as submit and be bullied by them notwithstanding there was so many of 'em and had a Sword upon which this Deponent saith three or four of the Company rose of their chairs and very much Importuned him to sit down with 'em he also saith that he directly called for a Bowl of Punch and sat down with 'em and after some discourse they told this Deponent that several people had been peeping in and Listning to their discourse had made Remarks and Spoke of severall things that was said amongst 'em and that they thought M^r Peter Taylor to be one that took notice of what they said and this deponent for another however in a short time M^r Perry begun to curse the Eastern Shore Burgesses prodigiously because they was against a Tobacco Law but particularly James Holliday Esq^r & that he said Holliday was not fit to be in the House this deponent saith that he asked said M^r Perrie why and said Perrie answered that M^r Carroll bullied and Scared M^r Holliday some time ago about a Tobacco Law and that said Holliday was influenced by Esq^r Bennet likewise from making a Tobacco Law this Deponent also saith that he told M^r Perrie that he never took M^r Holliday to be such a man neither did he believe that Esq^r Bennet ever concern'd himself so much in State affairs as to endeavour to sway or Rule the Government said Perry swore directly by his God it was true & that he would Justify it to their Faces & that he knew Esq^r

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