

The State of Maryland to the Honorable John
Johnson Chief Judge of the first Judicial District and
Edmund Key and John R. Plater Esquires associate
Judges of the same Greeting. Whereas it has been represented
to me that a number of Negroes are now confined in the jail of
Saint Marys County charged with committing a Riot
who cannot be tried until the ensuing court without a
Special Commission for that purpose. Now know ye that
I have appointed and commissioned and by these presents
do appoint and commission you the said John Johnson
Edmund Key and John R. Plater Esquires jointly or
any one or more of you to hear and determine all crimes
offences or misdemeanors and to deliver the Jail of the said
County of Saint Marys from all persons therein confined
for any crime offence or misdemeanor and I do command
you that on the second Monday in May next you or
any one or more of you attend at Leonard Town in the said
County of Saint Marys to deliver the said Jail as well as
persons aforesaid as of any others that may be confined therein
doing what to Justice may appertain according to the laws
of this State adjourning the same from day to day as may
be judged necessary and I hereby command the Sheriff
of the said County that on the said day or any other day
that he shall be required by the said Court he cause to
come before the said Court as well the said Prisoners
and their attachments as all other prisoners and their
attachments. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto