

(295)
to be intrud and seized upon to his Lordships use given
1th March in the said Province of Maryland the seventh
day of February Anno Domini 1653

William Stone

By the Lieutenant & Governor of
Maryland

Whereas Captain Thomas Willer Master of the good
Ship called the Mayflower of London and Merchants and
Others aboard the said ship have lately taken as prize a
Ship riding in Saint Georges River within this Province
wherein I do not think fit at all to intermeddle by any au-
thority conferred upon me here but leave the Tryal of the
Business to the Court of Admiralty in England where the
matter touching the legality of the Prize as I am now given
to understand and brought I know to the contrary ought
properly to be determined now these are for the said Captain
Willers and the said Merchants better encouragement & to
Remove any Jealousy or distrust which may perhaps be
conceived by them upon the occasion of taking the said Ship
faithfully to promise and engage myself so far as in me
lies that they shall not be any way troubled or molested
in their free trade within this Province during their abode
here with the said Ship or either of them but shall be therein
protected to the utmost of my power as Governor of this
Province they carrying themselves fairly and peaceably as
they ought without just Occasion of Offence to the Government
or Injury to the Inhabitants here and as touching the goods
belonging to the Ship so by them taken as prize which were
ashore at and before the taking of the said ship and there-
lately by them viewed after some time of Consideration whether
by any Law or warrant from England or in Justice they