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Maryland July 9th 1692

May it please Your Lordships

Pursuant and in Obedience to his Majestys Order in Council of the 19th of November last upon the Petition of Major Nicholas Sewall, We the Governour and Council of his their Majesties Province of Maryland, have convened to consult and examine the Matter of the said Petition, and as to that Part relating to himself, he hath (in Confidence of his own Innocency, and for the more speedy Determination thereof) waived his Pretences to that favour granted him by his Majesty, in referring the same to Our Inquisition only, and submitted himself to a fair Tryal at Law, which he hath humbly supplicated, and for the reasons set forth in his Petition (Copy whereof We herewith send your Lordships) We have been induc'd to grant, and accordingly at Our next Provincial Court in September We have assign'd him Day of Tryal; of which and the Proceeding thereon We shall take Care to remit your Lordships an Account, and for the other two Persons mentioned in the said Sewalls Petition, We find that they have pass'd a fair and legal Tryal, and have been duely convicted, but the Person that actually did the fact (viz^t.) John Woodcock hath suffer'd the Law, so that they are at his Majestys Pleasure for Mercy or otherwise as in his Royal Wisdom he shall see fit, which We humbly pray may be signified to Us to proceed accordingly

We have further to represent to your Lordships that here is One Rebecca Saunders at Our last Provincial Court convicted and under sentence of Condemnation for the Murder of a Bastard Child, but no positive Evidence to prove the fact; neither any Appearance or the least mark of Violence to be seen upon the Child, but great Care seemingly used by the Mother toward it in wrapping it in clean Linnen, and as decently as she could, with other such like Circumstances, induc'd Us to believe, it was shame rather than Guilt caused her to conceal it, and therefore in the Rigor of the Law she has been convicted: We humbly recommend her to his Majestys Grace and favor as a proper Object of his Mercy

By Letters late from New York We have Advice of the necessitous Condition of that Place and their urgent Occasion for the Aid & Assistance of their Neighbours against their adjacent Enemies the French and Sannada Indians: We have contributed toward their Charge One hundred pounds Sterling; and shall be willing to advance proportionably