

Service the Assembly should then be called, resolved in the Affirmative

His Excellency is pleased to ask the Opinion of this Board whether there is an immediate necessity to prevent the Exportation of Indian Corn. Resolved there does not appear any immediate necessity.

Ordered that the Clerk of this Board write the following Letter to the Magistrates of the several Counties of this Province.

Gentlemen It having been reported that there have been lately some tumultuous Meetings and Rabblings among the Negroes in some parts of the Province & moreover that Persons of the Roman Catholick Persuasion have misbehaved in such a manner in some Counties as to give his Majesty's loyal Subjects just cause to fear an Insurrection I am directed by the Governor and Council to write to you thereon, and in their Names to desire you will enquire and learn what foundation there is, or what cause has been given in your County for such a Report, if upon Examination there shall appear to have been sufficient cause given either by Papists, Negroes, or others for such a Report you are to cause the offenders to be apprehended, and either commit them to the Sheriff's Custody or oblige them to give good Security for their Appearance at the next Assizes and in the meantime you are to advise the Governor thereof; but if upon Examination there shall appear to you that such Rumours or Reports tending so much to the inquietude of his Majesty's Subjects in this Province, are entirely groundless without foundation you are then required to bind over to the next Assizes as disturbers of the publick Peace whoever shall appear to be the Authors of such Rumours, or to have industriously propagated such Falshoods.

As It has been also intimated that some Roman Catholick Priests of this Province, have been lately absent from their usual place of Residence considerable time, you are desired to enquire if any Priest from your County has been so absent, & if it shall by the Affidavit of any Evidence appear to you to have been the case, you will summon such Priest to appear before you, and if he does not give a very satisfactory Account of himself, and where he has been during his absence from home, you are to commit him to the Sheriff's Custody, unless he gives good Security for his immediate Appearance before the Governor and Council, whom you are instantly to advise what you have done respecting such Priest, and inform them of whatever has come to your Knowledge concerning his Absence or Misbehaviour.

His Excellency is pleased to inform this Board that he had sometimes ago sent the following Instructions to the Commanding Officers of the Militia of Baltimore and Frederick Counties

Instructions to Colonel Nathaniel Wickham Commander in Chief of the Militia of Frederick County.

Sir As sometimes since, I sent you peremptory Instructions to regulate the Militia of your County and to have the several Troops and Companies under your Command frequently Mustered and disciplined, I presume and hope you will not find any great difficulty in executing the Orders, that the late Inursions of the French Indians into this Province call upon me and obligemenow to give. For the Protection of our Western Frontiers and the Inhabitants of this Province.