

Mr. Sayfield informed me that he prepared to join with some Provision  
 the County of Sussex in an Application to your Excellency for a Pardon, at the  
 same time that the Transcript should be sent up, which that has not been done: I cannot tell  
 unless it may be thought that I would mention the Matter to your Excellency: I shall  
 therefore beg leave to lay before you, &c. all that I have been made acquainted with, in regard  
 to the Criminal; since I came to down. Mr. Joseph Coates of Baltimore County, who lately  
 sold the above Negro to Mr. Sayfield, informed me, as to the past Character of the fellow  
 that he had been guilty of some little pilferings, but never accused of any offence like to that  
 for which he is now condemned: he is very young, I believe not more than twenty Years of  
 Age, and it is said much concerned for his offence, it is also generally believed below that  
 the present Criminal had for his accomplice a Negro fellow, charged by the Confession  
 of the Criminal only, who was the greatest Rogue of the two, and escaped Punishment  
 for want of legal testimony to convict him: I am convinced your Excellency's merciful and  
 humane Disposition inclines you to spare Life where there may be a probability of  
 Reformation in the Criminal, I know little of him, and submit the Matter to your  
 Excellency's Determination, whether Life or Death; I am with all due Regard.

April 8<sup>th</sup> 1756

S<sup>t</sup> Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
 Rob<sup>t</sup> Tenchings Henry

It is the Advice of this Board to his Excellency, that he be pleased to direct a Pardon for  
 the aforementioned Negro, which is sued accordingly.

At a Council held at the City of Annapolis on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> Day  
 of April in the fifth Year of his Lordship's Dominion, Annoque Domini 1756.

Present

- |               |   |                                     |                                   |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| The honorable | } | Benjamin Tasker Esq <sup>r</sup>    | Richard Lee Esq <sup>r</sup>      |
|               |   | Philip Thomas Esq <sup>r</sup>      | Benedict Calvert Esq <sup>r</sup> |
|               |   | Samuel Chamberlain Esq <sup>r</sup> | Colonel Goldborough               |
|               |   | Colonel Benjamin Tasker             |                                   |

His Excellency is pleased to lay before this Board some Extracts of Instructions sent  
 him by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, which are ordered to be read as follows  
 "You are to permit a Liberty of Conscience to all persons, except Papists, so they be contented  
 with a quiet and peaceable enjoyment of the same, not giving Offence or Scandal to the  
 Government."

147<sup>th</sup>  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Mes<sup>rs</sup>  
 153  
 17<sup>th</sup>  
 1756

Having received a copy of a Bill that was brought in and read the first time in the  
 Lower House, and put off to next Session to prevent the further Growth of Slavery. The  
 Subject thereof containing Matters of the greatest Importance, and Consequence, and as  
 the first of W<sup>m</sup> and Mary commonly called the Toleration Act, and the several penal Acts  
 of Parliament therein mentioned, being before then enacted to be in full force, within