

The above named parchment being met in consequence of Letters writ to them by the Governor's Order the 8th Instant His Excellency laid before the Board a copy of a Deposition said to have been made before Colonel Thomas Cresap by one William Johnson who was lately brought hither by his Excellency's Order from Fort Frederick and was on his Arrival here committed to the custody of the Sheriff of Anne Arundell County.

The Examination of William Johnson aged 23. Years, or thereabouts, taken on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God before Thomas Cresap a Justice of the Peace for the County of Frederick in the Province of Maryland the 26th Day of October 1756 saith that he left Delaware about three Years ago, and came to a place called Deer Creek in Baltimore County in the Province of Maryland where he was for sometime employed in the Service of Thomas Pungen, Darby Tool, and James M^o Donald, during which time he was several times to Mass, at one priest Neale's Mass House, and while in that Society it was insinuated to the Congregation by the said Neale that it would be much better for them to live under the Dominion of a French Government than under an English one, that they would thereby get their Lands on easier Terms, and might have and enjoy the free Exercise of their Religion, and recommended it to them that it would be proper for them to prepare themselves with Arms and Ammunition, and be in readiness to join any party of French and Indians that might come down to invade, or make an Attack upon his Britannic Majesty's Subjects which was generally agreed on by the whole Congregation: And this Examinant further saith that one John Flaugherty likewise made himself very busy in the Matter, and this Examinant further saith that the said Neale likewise informed them that one Digges who lived near York being an able Craftsman would be of great Service to them in effecting the said Scheme by furnishing them with Arms, Ammunition and the like, and that this Examinant understood by the Discourse of the said Congregation that one Cook would do all in his power towards furnishing any that would join in the same with Arms, Ammunition &c. And this Deponent further saith that the said priest Neale understanding that the Deponent after having the Notion put into his Head by him the said Neale of the several Advantages of living under a French Government had an Inclination to go back to the French, and become a Subject to the King of France applied to this Deponent to carry a packet of Letters to a French Officer at Onarago who as the said Neale informed him had but one Eye, and that this Examinant at earnest Request of the said Neale consented and undertook to carry the said Letters to the said French Officer, and the said Neale thereupon gave him a pistole, upon which this Deponent soon after set off to go to Onarago, and being directed by the Indians arrived there where he found the said French Officer and was kindly received by him