

Potomack by Sir Thomas Adams Commander of the Boston Frigate, or One of his Officers, are carried to Virginia in order to be Seized and Prosecuted in the Admiralty Court in that Dominion. I need not inform your Lordship that the whole River Potomack is within the Limits of Maryland as described in the Royal Charter from his Majesty King Charles the First to the Right Honourable Cecilius Baron of Baltimore, Ancestor of the present Lord Proprietary and that the several Islands which lye in the said River are held by Patent from the Maryland Land Office, One or more of them I am told by a Gentleman of your Council.

The abovementioned Seizures having therefore been made within the Jurisdiction of this Province I think it incumbent on me to intimate to your Lordship that I conceive the Admiralty Court in Virginia cannot take Cognizance thereof or intermeddle therein in any manner without an Infringement of the Charter Rights of my Constituent, the Right honourable the Lord Proprietary of this Province which Rights I am confident your Lordship has not the least Desire or Inclination to infringe, and I flatter myself you will, as far as shall be consistent with the Duty of your Station prevent every Violation of them by any Court or Officer in your Government.

In this Confidence I recommend Mr. Jennings to your Countenance and good Offices, in case he should find himself under a Necessity of taking any Step on this Occasion at Williamsburgh, in the Character of the Lord Proprietary's Attorney General.

I have the Honour to be with the greatest Respect, My Lord,  
Your Lordships most Obedient

and very humble Servant

Robert Eden.

His Excellency the Right Honble  
Lord Botolph

The following Commission and Instructions to the Attorney General being prepared were Read and approved of and Ordered to be Entered.

Maryland. Robert Eden Esq. Lieutenant General and Chief Governor in and over the Province of Maryland.

To Thomas Jennings Attorney General of the Province of Maryland Esquire and to all Persons to whom these presents shall come Greeting

Whereas certain Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants within this Province have been Seized in the River Potomack within the undoubted Limits and Jurisdiction of the Province aforesaid by Sir Thomas Adams or the Commanding Officer for the Time being of the Boston Frigate and the Vessels so Seized have been carried or sent to the Colony of Virginia in order for the purpose that Cognizance may be taken therein of the Cause or Causes of the Seizures aforesaid and whereas of Right the local Jurisdiction in such Case belongeth to the said Province of Maryland Now Know Ye that I Robert Eden Esq. Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland lawfully constituted and approved in Maintenance of the just Authority and Jurisdiction of the said Province and of the Rights belonging unto the Right honourable Frederick Lord Baron of Baltimore absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Province aforesaid reposing an especial Trust and Confidence in Thomas Jennings Esq. Attorney General of the said Lord Proprietary do hereby Authorize constitute and appoint him the said Thomas Jennings in this behalf in due manner to assert claims and demands that no Cognizance be had or taken within the Dominion or Colony of Virginia in respect of the Premises or any part thereof tending to impeach diminish infringe or derogate from the Jurisdiction Prerogatives Franchises Liberties or Privileges of the said Lord Proprietary. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and caused the Great Seal of the Province to be affixed this Seventeenth Day