

In Council April 11<sup>th</sup> 1793

The Board took into Consideration the Petition of William Smith of Harford County, setting forth that he is in the Commission of the Peace for said County, and was lately invited to the wedding of Richard Dallam Esq as a guest - that Mr Dallam had sent to Baltimore to procure the attendance of a Clergyman to perform the marriage ceremony, and the messenger not meeting with the person he was sent for, called afterwards on another Clergyman who was unable to attend - that the company were all assembled at an appointed day, and waited for the coming of the person till 10 o'clock at night, when the messenger informed them that a Clergyman could not be procured - that the Petitioner was prevailed upon by the solicitation of Mr Dallam to perform the marriage ceremony - that he was entirely ignorant of the Law which prohibits any other than Clergymen from performing the marriage ceremony nor would he have been prevailed <sup>on</sup> to do except from the importunity of Mr Dallam, who, assured the Petitioner that he had examined the Laws, and found that the Petitioner was authorized to marry him and his wife - that he has been presented in Harford County Court for this offence, and fined five hundred pounds at last March term as appears by a copy of the record annexed to the Petition -

(The)