

U. H. J. They present by Order of the House Mr. John Low a new member elected for S<sup>t</sup> Maries County to be sworn who had accordingly administered unto him the oaths appointed by Act of Parliament to be taken instead of the oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy and also subscribed to the Test

The opinion of the House in relation to the publick Building was returned as follows viz<sup>t</sup>

May the 27<sup>th</sup> 1697

The House of Delegates do Concur with the Justices of the provinciall Court and Grand Jury that the same is Good Substantial Rough work and that they approve thereof

W Bladen Clk Delegates.

1 Taken into consideration several proposalls to be laid before the House his Excellency being pleased to say that the chief Reasons for calling the Assembly at this time was in the matter about the noise of the Indians and in particular the Piscattoway Indians lately deserting their Fort and withdrawing themselves into another Government which it is Imagined to proceed chiefly from a murther lately committed at the Eastern Branch of potomack upon the Body of a certain negro Boy belonging to one M<sup>r</sup> Stoddert against whom it is believed they had some Grudge upon the Account of Trade proposed therefore that the same be laid before the House for their consideration Recommending some law to be made for preventing like future evils and that some measures may be taken as to the present circumstance of Affairs

2 Proposed that the militia of the province be modelled anew it being deemed impossible that the present Act in force about the same should be complied with by means of the poverty of the People It is therefore Recommended that some new Act be made whereby every four or five Taxables may be Obliged to find a Trooper Dragoon or Footman (according as it shall be Agreed upon with necessary Arms.

This Board do consider that the Countries Credit is much under valued and impaired chiefly occasioned by means of the Sheriffs not punctually complying the publick dues &<sup>c</sup> for redress whereof it is proposed that 2, 3 or more substantial persons be appointed in every County who will undertake to bring all Tobacco to 2 or 3 Certain places in the said Counties and they to be continued to execute the office of Sheriff for six or seven years together.

Complaints coming from all Parts that the publick Credit is quite lost and in a particular Instance now of Captain Holland whose Account is herewith sent for the Houses Advice to be Given therein