

Maryland ss

U. H. J.

At a Council in Assembly held at the Town and Port of Annapolis in Anne Arundel County the fifth Day of December in the third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Ann by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith &c. Annoq Domini 1704.

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Were Present

His Excell John Seymour Esq^r her Majesty's Cap^t General and Governour in chief

	Thomas Tench Esq ^r	} Col Edward Lloyd }	
The hon ^{ble}	Tho ^s Brook Esq ^r		} L ^t Col W ^m Holland }
	Col John Hammond		

This being the Day appointed for the meeting of the General Assembly pursuant to his Excellency's Proclamation to that Purpose his Excellency was pleased to communicate to the Board what he intended to say to them upon the opening of this present sessions as followeth & desired them to give their Advice what they thought proper to be left out or added thereto.

Premising to and thus bespeaking the Council

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Hon:^{ble} Gentlemen

I Thank God We have so good Weather at this present meeting whereby all the Gentlemen of her Ma:^{ty's} hon^{ble} Council as also those of the house of Delegates of this Province have the opportunity of being Present here in order to Consult advise and Redress the present unhappy Circumstances this Province lyes under of our publick Court House being burnt with several of our Laws especially that for regulating our Militia so absolutely necessary that it would be the greatest neglect and folly not to Endeavour reenacting thereof Whereupon so much depends the preservation & defence of the Country

I must acquaint you that upon the 21st of October last with the advice of the Gent. of her Ma:^{ty's} Council then present I thought fitt upon the pressing occasion to Convene the Assembly upon the 21st of November and accordingly issued Proclamations to the several Countys for Convening them But afterwards finding that it was doubted by some whether it might not be irregular to have them meet sooner than this