

every County who will undertake to bring all Tobacco to 2 or 3 certain places in these Counties and they to be continued to execute the Office of Sheriff for six or seven years as yet.
Complaints coming from all Parts that the publick Credit is quite lost and in a manner
Instance now of Captain Holland whose account is herewith sent for the Houses use to be given therein

4 Proposed that a law be made to Impower his Excellency upon cause of the Death or removal of any of the Justices to constitute others under his hand and seal to save the charge of Issuing new Commissions to the Counties upon such Occidents

5 That a law be made to lessen the Commissioners Expenses in attending their County Courts the present Allowance being complained of and found to be burdensome particularly by Complaint thereof Received from Somerset County and that the number of Justices in each County be lessened if thought convenient

6 Proposed that a law be made for securing all letters brought in and carried out by all Masters of Ships a Great Prejudice being found to the Inhabitants through negligence & Misconduge thereof that the letters brought in may be delivered to the several Collectors and that Mr Perry the publick post be obliged to call upon such Officers for the dispatch of such letters according to the several directions

7 That a law be made to Confirm the Titles to the Land whereon Churches and Chappels are built and to enable the Vestries where they shall see occasion to build Churches or Chappels to purchase lands therefore

✓ The honorable Thomas Tench Esq came and was added

The foregoing several Proposals being read over by Order drawn forth and laid before the House accordingly and came answered as following

1 Resolved that as to the first relating to the Indians that the same be Referred till Major William Barton appear in the House

2 Resolved that his Excellencys proposals relating to the Act for better regulating the Militia be referred till Major William Barton appear in the House thereof and make report of it be convenient that at present a Law should be drawn therefore

3 Leave given to bring in a Bill for redress of the publick Credit

4 Resolved that his Excellencies Proposal relating to the Appointing a Justice of the Peace by warrant under his hand and seal be referred to the Committee of Laws to make Report thereof to this House whether such Law shall be enacted

5 That the County Commissioners expenses are already well settled

6 Leave Given to bring in a Bill to prevent the abuse of Intercepting and Imberaling Peoples Letters

7 Leave Given to bring in a Bill therefore

Several other proposals being considered of by this Board are Ordered to be drawn forth again the Morning in order to be laid before the House

May the 28th 1697 The Council again sat and were present

His Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq Captain General

Sir Thomas Lawrence Baronets Secretary Thomas Tench Esq Col^l Henry Towles

Col^l Nicholas Guenberry Col^l Charles Hutchins Col^l John Courts

Brought from the House of Delegates by Captain Hill and Nine other members the following Message viz By the House of Delegates May the 28 1697

That we may not err in our dutiful respects to your Excellency - yet maintain our own rights and privileges as the representative body of this Province first we being informed by a Committee of Laws that their Clerk is taken into custody by the Sheriff of Accomack County by a precept from your Excellency and his Majestys honorable Council for what reason we know not which we humbly conceive to be a great breach of the Privileges of this House 2^d We humbly desire your Excellency and the honorable Council will please to signify to us the reasons of such his commitment

Signed J. Order

W. Bladen Esq Deputy