Honourable Sirs. Baltimore 21st November 1770. 9

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Last June I had the Honour to attend your Body, I took the Liberty to represent the great hardship I should labour under, if my Vessel should fall into the hands of the Enemy, or be lost by any Casualty or stress of Weather in her passage to the West Indies or back — as I am in no manner secured: — and as your Honours would not give any security or satisfaction in case of Loss; — I was constrained to apply to Baltimore County Court for a Writ of Replevin to endeavour to procure some indemnification. — The writ of Replevin was delivered to the Sheriff of this County to serve — in consequence of which he went to the Point where my Brig Lay with intention to execute the Writ accompanied by the appraisers and myself, when the Sheriff was most violently opposed by Captain Martin his Crew, and others he had Collected for the purpose, threatening to shoot wound or destroy him or any other person who should come on board — altho the Sheriff acquainted Capt. Martin that he was not to come on board in any illegal manner but that had a proper Writ of Replevin issued forth of Baltimore County Court. — After the Sheriff had delivered the Vessel to me, by laying his hand on the Gunwall, (which was the only manner he could make delivery,) Captain Martin, with some others, cast the vessel loose from the Wharf and carried her in the Stream, at such a distance as put her out my reach, and still forcibly detains her. — I therefore have thought proper to inform your Honours of the whole proceeding, and to request you will permit no person immediately under you, to so grossly violate the Civil Authority which you have declared should be held sacred and unviolated. — As Capt. Martin in this instance has in a most daring manner opposed and put at defiance the Civil Authority — I hope your Honours will give the most immediate and positive orders to him, to deliver the Vessel to me, or not suffer him to depart the Province with her without my Consent untill the matter is settled; and not in a manner undergoing your sanction, countenance or proceeding of so dangerous a Nature. — I repeat again that it much distresses me to have taken this Course — and nothing but a view of securing myself should ever have compelled me at I saw no other

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