Caroline County. March 7th. 1778

Sir/ — We are much Distress'd in this County at this time for want of Members in Each Court (viz) County Court & Orphans Court — viz Haskins Joshua Clark & Storkson Thomas all Refusing to serve in either Court. & as I understand Mr. Potter is serving in Sheriff who was in both Courts, myself at Twenty miles Distance, and being in years. in bad winter Weather cannot attend with safety to my health. tho Ready & Willing at all times when able & Do so — now if Mr. Potter is Sheriff we have but three in the orphans Court (viz) myself. Mr. Mason. & Mr. Hamilton. & for the Reasons above we Cant had that most usefull Court for the Benefit of the people I should be glad if you think proper that two more might be added to the orphans Court. Henry Dickinson also in the County Courts and Mr. Hugh McCoyd who is now in the County Courts we have not yet to this time had one orphans Court. the many Law being to sow. & some to Negotiate full but those in April Term. we may be able to meet, especially if you should think proper to make the above addition. & must then adjourn from time to time until the Business to be Done — Inclosed you have the List of all those that have taken the Oath &c to this State & Government before me — a poor show which I am sorry for we have many Disaffected people that are prevented the well affected of Doing what they incline to Do. I attended five weeks from home for this sow — sent you and half those came to my house before the Days of attend. and from many Did attend but absolutely Refused to swear. two are so near the Counties of the Delaware State that they have Commissions one people are such as these ones, but those one Light horse Capt. Lee — at the head of them now Lying at this time in those Counties. will teach them something of their Duty, I am informed he Does not spare them I find our people has two Schisms. the one that as to forbid swearing. that the Assembly will Repeal the act, the other that as they and so grant a — majority of them. the Sheriff will not be able to make the collection this they will not speak out, but from hints Given amongst them I am apt to believe those two matters they Rely on —

I am Sir your most Obd. Hble Servt

Cha Dickinson

To the Honble
Thomas Johnson, Junr Esqr
Governor of the State of
Maryland —

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.