The Honble Col. John Contee Late Commissary Generall being Dead and the Honble William Bladen Esq. being appointed to succeed him in that office Produces the following Commission and Orders the same to be recorded which follows Viz.

August 16th 1708 —

maryland ss: ANNE by the Grace of God of Great Brittaine France and Ireland Queen Defender of the faith &c. — To William Bladen Esq. Greeting Whereas for the due administration of Justice it is most Expedient that there be a succession from the dead to the Living and y. t. y. wills of all ffsons — devising or bequeathing any reall or personall Estates — may be duly proved and Letters of administration of the Estates of all ffsons dying intestate may be Granted to such who have right thereunto. Therefore to y. end — there may be no failure of Justice therein but that — it may be duly administred within this province to — all persons whatsoever concerned KNOW yee that we — very much relying and Confiding in the Knowledge care integrity and ability of you the s. William Bladen have and do by these presents Commissionate ordaine Constitute — and appoint you the Said William Bladen to be our — Commissary Generall or Chief Judge for Probat of wills — and Granting administrations within this our Province — and in all the incidents and Emergencies thereunto — belonging or thereupon arising as well in taking — the probats of all Such wills and Granting letters of administration as also in recieving Examining and passing all Inventories and accounts whatsoever — before you to be Exhibitted and at the suit or instance of any ffsons claiming or pretending to have any — interest in any deceased Estate within this province to proceed adjudge sentence and decree the Same and — every of them and administer right and Justice to all ffsons therein concerned according to the Known — Laws and customes of this our province and where those are silent according to the Laws usages and — Customes of our Kingdom of England and further — we do Grant unto you the s. William Bladen to — Exercise all powers Rights Jurisdictions and — previleges lawfully belonging to a Court for taking — the probat of Wills and Granting administrations

(as)

as aff. saving to all and every Such ffson or ffsons that — shall conceive themselves aggrieved by any Difinitive — sentence by you given or to be Given their Lawfull right — of appealing to us or our Capt. Genll. or Governour in Chief — within this our province for the time being or such other — ffson or ffsons as we or they shall appoint to hear and — determine the Same To have hold Exercise Execute and — enjoy the s. office of Chief Judge and Comly Genll. and — Commissioner in Chief for probat of wills &c. within this — our province as aff. unto you y. s. Wm Bladen Esq. and to — take and receive to your own proper use and behoof all — Such Just fees as now are or shall be settled by y. Laws of — this province aff. and Generally to act do perform and — Execute all and Singular the powers and Jurisdictions to — you hereby Granted untill Such time as we shall Signify — our Royall Will and pleasure to the Contrary GIVEN at the — Town and port of annapolis under the Great Seale of our — said province this Sixteenth day of August in the Seventh — yeare of our Reigne &c. annoq. Dni one thousand Seven — hundred and Eight WITNESSE our Trusty and well beloved — John Seymour Esq. our Capt. Genll. and Governour in Chief — in and over this our said province of maryland &c.

Jo: Seymour

(Great Seale of maryland)

Be it remembered That on this Eighteenth day of August Anno — Dni One thousand Seven hundred and eight the abovementioned William — Bladen Esq. Appeared before his Excellency the Governour in the Prerogative — office for Probat of Wills &c. and in presence of his Excellency took the — following oaths Viz. the oaths appointed by act of Parliament to be taken — instead of the oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy the oath of abjuration — and the following Oath for the Due Execution of the said office Viz.

You William Bladen shall Well truly Execute the Office of Chief — Judge or Commissary Generall for Probat of wills and Granting administra — tions within this her Majesty's Province of Maryland according to the

best