

Ordered That the following Proclamation issue, and that a Copy under Seal be sent to the Sheriff of Charles County, with directions to publish the same by reading it in the most public places in said County.

By his Excellency William Smallwood Esquire Governor of Maryland

A Proclamation

Whereas it has been represented that a considerable number of disorderly Persons lately assembled at Port Tobacco in Charles County, and during the sitting of the Court for the said County, entered the Court House in a riotous and tumultuous Manner and obliged Mr. John Allen Thomas one of the Attornies of the said Court to strike off several Actions which he had brought for the recovery of British Debts: And Whereas it is of the highest Importance to Government that Right and Justice be duly Administered in all Cases and that the Judicial Authority of the State be Protected in the free exercise of all its Powers And Whercas such riotous Proceedings are highly Criminal and punishable with severe Pains and Penalties,

I have therefore thought proper by and with the advice of the Council to issue this my Proclamation requiring all Persons to refrain from committing such Violences and Outrages and I do hereby warn them of the Pains and Penalties which the Law inflicts for such Offences and of the necessity which Government will be reduced to of enforcing the Law in the severest Manner; and I do also require and enjoin all Justices, Sheriffs and other Officers of the Peace to be vigilant and active in suppressing such disorderly and tumultuous Assemblies and Meetings and do exhort the good People of this State to be aiding and assisting the [p 150] said Justices and Officers in the Execution of their Duty.

Given at Annapolis this Thirteenth Day of July in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Eighty six.

W. Smallwood

By his Excellency's Command.

T. Johnson Jr. Sec'y.

God Save the State.

The Council adjourned 'till tomorrow morning 11 o'clock.

Friday 14th. July 1786

The Council met.

Present His Excellency William Smallwood Esquire.

The Honorable James Brice

John Kilty

William Paca

Esquires.