

Lord Baltimore's Declaration
dated 13. May 1682.

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers.

Maryland ss.

To all Christian people to whom these Presents shall come Greeting in our Lord God Everlasting, Whereas through the envy, malice and hatred of some particular turbulent factious spirits, not only disaffected to this, but also dissatisfied with uneasie under & averse to all manner of rule & Government, severall ill reports and foul aspersions have of late been cast upon the Government of this Province under the right honourable Charles Lord Baltimore, Lord & Proprietor thereof, representing his Lordshipp as violent against the Protestants here inhabiting; conceiving and entertaining groundless Jealousies against them, and upon all occasions showing partiality and favour to those of the Popish persuasion to the great discouragement and oppression of others His Majestie's Protestant subjects, who are said meerly upon the account of their religion, to be kept under and at a distance from all possibility of advancement to any place of honour or profit within the Province, and to render the same more odious and contemptible to the world, such reports have not only been scattered abroad amongst several persons from one to another, but (as we have seen & heard) through the instigation means and procurement (as we conceive) of the authors themselves, have for the more general contagion been exposed to public view in print, thereby to take the deeper impression on the minds of the vulgar, not only to the derogation of his Lordshipp's honor, but also of very ill consequence to the whole Province in general, by terrifying & preventing thereby others His Majestie's loving subjects from resorting hither to cohabitt with us as formerly for our greater strength & fortification against the Indians, and also for the better cultivating and improveing of this Country, to the great damage, detriment & prejudice of such His Majestie's Subjects as are here already resident both as to their lives & estates by that means. We therefore the Subscribers professing the Gospell of Jesus Christ according to the Litturgy of the Church of England and Protestants against the doctrine & practice of the Church of rome, Subjects also to His Majestie the King of Great Britain &c. and residents as aforesaid esteeming ourselves (as indeed we are) everyone therein particularly & nearly concerned, hold ourselves in conscience and duty obliged by this our impartial, true & sincere remonstrance or Declaration to unfold the naked truth and to undeceive the minds of those before whose eyes the mist may have been cast, and to purge his Lordship & this Government, whereof we are, from all those false, scandalous and malicious aspertions, which the venomous blasts of such