

Lib. R. R.

Proclamation by the Lord Proprietary.

fforasmuch as the province is dayly threatened to be invaded by the Indians, and the Inhabitants of this province lyeing so dispersed, and that in many places they are in so small numbers that they are utterly unable to defend themselves, To the end that the people may in some reasonable manner be secured and that the Enemy may not gaine too much ground of us. Wee doe by the advise of Our Deputy Leivtenant and Councill Order the Inhabitants of S^t Maries Calvert Ann Arundell Baltemore. Charles and Cecill Countyes to infort themselves in their houses, and into the said fforts to draw any persons able to beare Armes not exceeding ten men in number unlesse they be Servants really purchased and bona fide paid for by the master of the house where such ffort shall be. And in regard drawing greater numbers then ten into any One house will undoubtedly give too much ground to the Enemy upon any invasion that may happen, Wee doe further with the advise of Our said Deputy & Councell strictly Charge and Co^mand all masters of houses where such fforts shall be, not to entertaine any greater number then ten men able to beare Armes into any of their said fforts or houses upon paine of being proceeded against as mutinous and Seditious persons gathered together with fforce contrary to the Knowne Law of this province and the Law of the Kingdome of England, unlesse the men now belonging as Servants as aforesaid to the said masters or now sojourning in the said houses of the said masters doe exceed or amount to a greater number then ten men able to beare Armes. And to the intent that Our pleasure herein be the Speedier putt in execution, and the reasonable Convenience of the Inhabitants as well as their Security may be the better provided for Wee doe hereby further Charge and Co^mand the Co^missioners of every the respective Countyes aforesaid together with every Captaine of the militia of such respective Countyes as aforesaid within ten dayes next after the publication hereof in each respective County to agree upon some certaine houses in each Hundred or Division in each respective County as aforesaid to which every ten of the respective Inhabitants able to beare Armes by name certainly by them to be sett downe shall upon any invasion of the Enemy certainly repaire, And hereof all persons concerned are peremptorily to take notice as they will answer the Contrary at their perills Given at S^t Maries under Our Great Seale of this Our province of Maryland, this 13th day of July in the first yeare of Our Dominion Annoq Dom. One thousand six hundred Seventy six.

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