

Begining of the seating of the Province was sufficiently effectuall by the Cohabitacōn or att least neer neighbourhood of the Justices of Our Provincially Court who then were no wayes hindred by weather or other casualties from giving their Constant attendance att the usuall Courts which are frequent enough if weather and distance of place did not hinder their meeting and soe inevitably cause frequent Adjournments Wee therefore for the ease and benefitt of all his Maties Subjects either resideing in this Province under Our Imediate Government or Trading hither and for the more speedy Recovery of debts which is the life of Trade By the advice of our Council have thought fitt hereby to Publish, That wee have by Comission under Our great seale Impowered Comission^{rs} in each County of this our Province To hold County Courts for tryall of all Accōns of debt arrising within their County and brought there against the Inhabitants of that County By whomsoever or whensoever Contracted whether by bond bill or Accompt and to any Value whatsoever saving to Every man notwithstanding his liberty to Prosecute in Our Provinciall as formerly or in the said County Courts at his pleasure Whereof wee Comand the severall and respective Sheriffs of the Countyes to make Publick Proclamacōn at the Usual places in their respective Countyes and then to leave the Proclamacōn fixed in the Place where their County Court is Usually held Whereof they are not to faile Given at Our City of Saint Maryes under our greate Seale of our said Province of Maryland The Eighth day of March in the ffourth yeare of Our Dominion &c Anoq Dom. 1678

Lib. R. R.

At a Councell held at Ditto place the 8th Day of March Anno 1678:

Lib. R.
p. 70

The hon^{ble} {
The Chancello^r
The Secry
Coll Brooke
Coll. Rozer

William Person und^r custody of M^r John ffawkes and Thomas Smith und^r the Custody of the Sheriff of S^t Maries make their appeareance, as also Anthony Evans according to summons directed to John Burdett he being likewise present.

Anthony Evans first Examined what he had to say in the premisses upon Oath Did Declare.

That One Day at S^t Johns in the Hall of that house Thomas Smith, himself and some others being in Company they were talking of News that he heard the said Smith say that M^r Rousby had grossly abused his L^{supp}: calling him Runnaway or,