

At a Councell held at the same Place the 11th of March Lib. R.
1678:

Present

The Honob^{le} { The Chancelo^r
The Secry
Coll: Brooke
Coll: Taylo^r
Coll: Rozer.

Cap^t Richard Covill Command^r of the Shipp ffrances of Lond^o having last yeare upon his arrivall there from this Province falsly and Malitiously Reported that the Govern^r of this Province had by Ord^r from his L^{spp} the L^d Prop^{ty} imposed an Oath of ffidelity on the People of this Province by w^{ch} they were to swear allegiance to his s^d L^{spp} against all Princes whatsoever and more specially ag^t his Sacred Majestie Our p. 73
Sovereign Lord the King of great Brittain &c^a his L^{spp}: Councell in Vindication of his L^{spps}: Hono^r and Innocency ag^t soe black an aspersion Wherein themselves and his L^{spps}: Governm^t are soe neerely concerned thought fitt to sett forth this following Declaration grounded upon one sett forth p the Governo^r himself to the same purpose.

Beeing informed by a Declaration of the Hon^{ble} Thomas Notley Esq^r Governo^r of this Province lately published for his Owne and the Lord Prop^{rys} Vindication, that One Richard Covill Marriner (who as Master of a Shipp traded here last yeare) had at his returne to London reported that by ord^r of the R^t Hon^{ble} Charles Lord Baltemore Prop^{ty} of this Province of Maryland his Officers here had imposed an oath upon the people here by w^{ch} they were required to swear ffidelity to him the said Lord Baltemore against all Princes whatsoever but more Especially ag^t his Sacred Maj^{tie} Our Sovereign Lord the King of England, Banishing all such who refused the s^d Oath. We thought it Our Duty not to be silent, nor becoming men of Common sense to lett ourselves & the Governm^t committed to our care lye und^r soe foule a scandall, Wherefore (having had the Administration of Justice in our hands for Divers yeares before his said L^{spp}: made the said Notley his Lievetenant here as well as since) Wee Doe Declare and Publish that never any such oath was imposed or tendered to any pson or psons whatsoever within this Province or trading here since we have here resided (which hath been for the space of Twenty yeares at least) and consequently never any man imprisoned or otherwise punished for refuseing to take the same, neither is any oath or other tye of that nature to be found upon record in this Province. This being the truth of the case, and such as we hope may Satisfie the whole world