

Liber R. Charles Absolute Lord and Prop^{ty} of the Provinces of Mary-
 p. 250 land and Avalon Lord Baron of Baltemore &c: To our two
 houses of Assembly to our Chancelo^r of our said Province of
 Maryland and to our Justices of our Provinciall Court, and all
 other our Officers within our s^d Province of Maryland Greeeing
 in our Lord God Everlasting. Know yee that takeing into
 our consideration that One of the most important affaires of
 this our Province is the establishing the succession of lands,
 goods and Chattells from the dead to the liveing, which by the
 common practice of all people hitherto deceaseing in this
 Province hath been settled by last Wills and Testam^{ts} and soe
 come to be transacted before our judge for probate of Wills
 and granting Administrations (though many times the wills
 and Testam^{ts} have concerned lands onely.) And further con-
 sidering that the distributing of Justice in the releife of
 Orphans, Legatees, and recovery of ffiliall parts lyeth before
 the said judge, but for want of a coercive power in the said
 Judge to enforce obedience to & performance of the Rules
 orders and Definitive sentences of the said Judge, Justice hath
 been retarded, Suitors Delayed, and Delinquents encouraged
 to persist in their contumacy and contempt. Wee willing to
 promote Justice according to the power given us by our
 Charter to erect what Courts and with what powers wee shall
 think fitt for the better and more speedy distribution of Justice
 to all persons within this our Province. Doe hereby Grant to
 our judge or Commissary generall for the time being and to
 all future Judges of our Court for probate of wills and grant-
 ing Administrations to be by us or our heyres and Successo^{rs}
 lawfully hereafter constituted and appointed that in case any
 person or persons Suito^{rs} before him shall disobey breake or
 contemne any Orders Decrees or finall Sentences of our s^d
 judge being duly obtained and made by our said Judge in
 our s^d Courts it shall and may be lawfull for our said judge to
 issue out such process of contempt as is now used in our
 Court of Chancery of this Province, and at last to imprison as
 Justice and the Case shall require, any former Law useage, or
 practice to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding
 Given at our City of S^t Maries under the greate Seale of our
 said Province of Maryland the Sixth Day of September in the
 Sixth year of our Dominion &c: Anno Domini One Thou-
 sand Six hundred Eighty and one. Witness Our Self.

Memdū the Tenth Day of September 1681: his L^{spp} during
 the sitting of the Assembly haveing recd: some Letters con-
 cerning the Indians came into the upper house of Assembly
 and communicated the same there to his Councill & after-
 wards to the Lower house with his L^{spps} Letter to both houses,
 being all as foll. viz.