

having graciously determined to use all possible means that Lib. M.  
may most effectually put a Stop to such Violences for the  
future, and protect his Subjects in their lawful Trade and  
Navigation has signified his Royal Pleasure to me thereupon;  
and pursuant to his Royal Commands, that I should make it  
known in the several Ports of this Government to all his  
Loving Subjects that they may know where and in what man-  
ner to apply for Redress on such Occasions; I do hereby  
publish and make known that it his most Sacred Majestys p. 43  
Royal Pleasure, that when any of His Subjects following  
their lawful Trade in the West Indies or elsewhere in America  
shall be unjustly plundered or despoiled of their Ships or  
Goods by any Persons of what Nation soever, the said Suffer-  
ers do by the first Opportunity give in the most authentick  
Proofs of the damages and Losses they have sustained upon  
Oath before the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court, which  
Judge after due Examination of the matter is to deliver to the  
said Sufferers a Declaratory Sentence under his hand and the  
Seal of the Court setting forth the particular Circumstances,  
when, where, and by whom committed, from what Port the  
Vessel or Vessels that did the damage was or were fitted out;  
and to what Port the Ship or Goods were carried, and the  
Value of the same, and that the whole has been duely proved  
upon Oath before him, which Sentence or Duplicate thereof  
is to be lodged in the hands of the Governor for the time  
being that it may be delivered to the Commander in Chief of  
his Majestys Ships in the West Indies or some Captain of his  
Majestys Ships who is thereupon to go to the Port where such  
Ship or Goods of his Majestys Subjects shall have been car-  
ried in, or from whence such Ship or Ships or Vessels was or  
were fitted out, in order to procure the immediate Releasment  
of such of his Majestys Subjects as may have been taken  
together with full Restitution of the Ships or Goods so plun-  
dered and taken or the Value thereof, or else the delivering  
up the persons or Ships that committed the fact, or to make  
Reprisals in such manner as is directed by the Orders in that  
behalf And to the Intent that all Persons concerned may have  
due Notice thereof I Do strictly require and Command the  
sev<sup>l</sup> Sheriffs of this Province to make this my Proclamation  
publick in their respective Counties in the usual manner as  
they will answer the Contrary at their Peril Given at An-  
napolis this fifteenth Day of April in the seventeenth year of  
His Lordships the Lord Proprietarys Dominion &c Annoq  
Domini 1731 J Ross Cl Conc.

God save the King & the Lord Proprietary

[Great Seal]