

To his Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq<sup>r</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> & Lib. X.  
Commander in chief of this his Majestys Province of Mary-  
land

Whereas there have of late been many Scandalous &  
Defamatory Rumors & Storys stirred up in this Province but  
more particularly in S<sup>t</sup> Marys County tending to the disquiet  
& trouble of this his Majestys happy Government & with  
which false Reports its much doubted many of his Majestys  
good & peacable Subjects have been much abused &  
amused by false Notions & Apprehensions which if not  
Speedily removed may tend to the great Damage & Punish- p. 156  
ment of those persons no less then disquiet the province the  
same things hav<sup>e</sup> already brought to Condign punishment &  
will undoubtedly be the portion of all that shall persist in  
such evils

And forasmuch as your Excellency hath of your Goodness  
Condescended so far as to lay before the Court & Country  
lately present at Annapolis to a very great number the sev-  
eral Rumors & Reports that have of late been Invented &  
spread abroad against this his Majestys Gov<sup>t</sup> & made them  
all appear by records & other undeniable proofs to be some  
false some scandalous & all malicious to the full Satisfac-  
tion & beyond contradiction in the minds of all persons  
present & to the Conviction of those Concerned insomuch  
that it hath been represented to your Excellency & your  
Excellency prayed to issue forth proclamation through this  
province thereby to disabuse his Majestys Good Subjects &  
to settle them in peace & quiet & also to Caution & leave  
without excuse all such who by those gentle admonitions  
will not be reclaimed & to let all know those very persons  
who were the actors & principles therein are so sensible  
of the falsitys & evil thereof that they have made a publick  
acknowledgment & entred into Solemn Engagements to  
avoid & abandon the like for the future

We do therefore humbly pray your Excellency that it may  
be published proclamed & made known that all the said  
Rumors & Storys are false feigned Scandalous & Malitious  
Invented & spread abroad by Iohn Cood as principal Au-  
thor & others that have suffered thereby & so probably  
would the said Cood but that he is fled into Virginia & p. 157  
there harboured with whom his Majestys good subjects may  
be commanded & required not only to forbear associating &  
Combining but to Seize & apprehend him wherever found  
in this province & Convey to the next Iustice of peace to be  
sent to the Sher of the County according to a former Procla-  
mation & we do hope and expect that all persons will take  
warning & be thereby Cautioned against such practices for