

The following proclamation for punishing all Immoralities and prophaneness read & approved of viz: Original Journal.

By his Excellency John Seymour Esq^r her Majesty's Cap^t General and Governour in chief in and over this her Province of Maryland and the territorys thereto belonging and Vice Admiral of the same.

A Proclamation for preventing & punishing all immorality and Prophaneness.

Whereas we cannot but be deeply sensible of the great Goodness and Mercy of Almighty God in the peaceable and happy Enjoyments of his manifold Blessings to us in this Province under her most sacred Majest^{ies} immediate Government Therefore we ought in Gratitude to return our most humble and hearty thanks to him and Express the same by a Suitable Life and Conversation avoiding all occasions of offending so good and gracious a God by breaking our straites of our Obedience & Duty to him and whereas nothing can prove a greater dishonour to a well obeyed Government where the Christian Faith is professed nor is likelier to provoke God to withdraw his mercy and blessings from us and instead thereof to inflict heavy and Severe Judgments upon this Province than the open & avowed practice of Vice Immorality and Prophaneness which amongst many men has too much prevailed here of late years to the high displeasure of Almighty God and the great Scandal of Christianity and the ill and fatal Examples of others who have been Soberly Educated and whose Inclination would lead them to the Exercise of Piety and Virtue did they not daily find such frequented and repeated instances of dissolute living Prophaneness & Impiety which has in a great measure been occasioned by the remissness and Neglect of the Magistrates not putting in Execution those good Laws which have been made for the Suppressing and Punishm^t thereof and by the ill Example of many in Authority to the Great Dishonour of God and Reproach of our holy religion

Wherefore and for that we cannot reasonably Expect the Increase or Continuance of the Blessings we Enjoy unless the like Evills be prevented for the Future I think my Self bound in Duty to God and the Care of her Majest^{ies} Subjects to me Committed during my Administration of Government here to take Effectual Course that Religion Piety and Good manners may Encrease and flourish in this Province I have therefore by and with the Advice and Consent of her Majest^{ies} honble Council thought fit to Issue this my Proclamation, and do hereby publish and Declare that I will discountenance and most Severely punish all manner of Vice Immorality and Pro-