

Lib. M. Nation immediately took Possession of these Lands, and paid their Proportion of the Taxes and demeaned themselves in every other Respect as peaceable Subjects to Your Majesty and unquestionable Inhabitants and Tenants of this Province, until very lately; When through Unwariness and too much Credulity they suffered themselves to be prevailed on to renounce openly their Submission to this Governm<sup>t</sup> and to declare their Resolution to transfer their Obedience to the Government of Pensilvania; And in Order to account for this their extraordinary Proceeding, they declared their Unwillingness to contribute towards the Maintenance of the Ministers of the Church of England by Law established in this Province, and to conform themselves to such Laws and Rules for the regulating the Militia, as this Province in their Legislature has thought expedient and necessary for their Safety and Defence against any foreign Enemy.

So surprizing a Behaviour endeavoured to be justified by such Pretences so greatly alarmed this Government with the dangerous Consequences which might ensue not only to this Province but to Every other of Your Majestys Dominions in America, that they thought their indispensable Duty required their utmost Care to disabuse these deluded People, and to make them sensible how much they had misbehaved themselves as Subjects to Your Majesty; For this Purpose the proper Sheriff of the County had Orders as well to demand and levy on those Inhabitants their just Proportion of the legal Taxes due to this Province, as to apprehend and secure so many of them as he could find, in Order that they might be forthcoming to answer in due Course of Law for their Misdemeanor in attempting to disturb the Peace of this Province by their avowed Disobedience to the Laws thereof: And as this Government might reasonably conclude these unfortunate People had been privately encouraged by some Persons daring enough to protect them against any Prosecution, therefore the said Sheriff had Directions to take to his Assistance in the Execution of his said Office some of the Militia of his County, In pursuance of which Commands the said Sheriff attended by several of the Militia repaired to that part of his County where those Inhabitants resided; there he found them shut up in an house (which an Armed Number of Inhabitants of Pensilvania had taken Possession of) and after his Demand of their being delivered to him was obstinately refused; the said Sheriff with the said Militia departed in a peaceable Manner and distrained some few of their Goods for their Proportion of Taxes

This Conduct of the Government of Maryland, We humbly hope, will appear in Your Majestys great Wisdom proper and