

Present

Lib. C. B.

His Excellency Samuel Ogle Esq<sup>r</sup> Governor

The hon<sup>ble</sup> { Benjamin Tasker Esq<sup>r</sup> } Col Charles Hammond  
          { Edmund Jenings Esq<sup>r</sup> } Col Levin Gale

The following Order being read, was approved of, and ordered to be sent to the Sheriff of Prince Georges County.

Whereas upon Consideration of the Act of Assembly Entituled A Supplementary Act to the Act Intituled An Act for the more Effectual Punishment of Negroes and other Slaves and for taking away the Benefit of Clergy from certain Offenders and to An Act Entituled An Act to prevent the tumultuous Meeting and other Irregularitys of Negroes and other Slaves and directing the manner of Trying of Slaves it is doubtful whether the Offenders can be try'd by Commission of Oyer and Terminer or Goal Delivery and it appearing by the Depositions of several Negroes taken before M<sup>r</sup> John Hepburn one of the Justices of Prince Georges County that a considerable number of Slaves in that County had form'd a most Wicked and Dangerous Conspiracy to destroy his Majestys Subjects within this Province and to possess themselves of the whole Country which may be attended with very Tragical Consequences if not timely prevented And Whereas several of the Conspirators must be committed to Prison and Remain there until March Court or Assizes and that there is Reason to apprehend that the numbers which must be so Committed with the Assistance of their yet undiscovered Accomplices may attempt to break the Goal, It is therefore hereby ordered that the Sheriff of the said County shall use all Proper Ways and Means not only for preventing the escape of any Slave already Committed or who shall be hereafter Committed and to Apprehend and secure all those whom he shall have Cause to Suspect of endeavouring to Rescue the said Prisoners or any of them and to that end and purpose to press such and so many persons as shall be necessary to attend and Assist him for the purposes aforesaid which persons are hereby required to Aid and Assist the said Sheriff in the premises as they will answer the Contrary at their Perill And that the several and Respective Magistrates in the said County upon Application of the said Sheriff to them or any of them shall be Aiding and Assisting to him herein by Warning and Summoning such and so many of the Inhabitants as may be proper and necessary for the purposes aforesaid

p. 61

The following Proclamation being read was approved of and issued accordingly