

252

To his Ex<sup>ty</sup> Francis Nicholson Esq<sup>r</sup>. Cap<sup>t</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup> and Comand<sup>r</sup>. in Chief of his Majesty's Province of Maryland

Whereas there have of late been many scandalous and defamatory Rumours and Stories shewed up in this Province but more particularly in St. Marys County touching the disquiet and trouble of his Majesty's happy Government, and which false Reports its much much Doubted many of his Majesty's good and peaceable Subjects have been much amused and abused by false notions and apprehensions, it is not speedily removed may tend to great damage and punishment of such persons not less than disquiet of the Province the same things having already brought severall persons to sundry punishment: and will without doubt be the portion of all others that shall assist in such Evils: And for as much as your Ex<sup>ty</sup> hath of your goodness considered so far as to lay before the Court and Country lately by you at Annapolis to a very great number of severall Rumours and Reports that have of late been invented and spread abroad against his Majesty's Government: and made them all appear by Records and other Undeniable Proofs to be some false some scandalous and all malicious to the full Satisfaction and beyond Contradiction in the minds of all persons present and to the Contentation of those concerned In so much that it has been Reported to your Ex<sup>ty</sup> and your Ex<sup>ty</sup> prayed to your said Proclamations through this Province thereby to satisfy his Majesty's good Subjects and to settle them in peace and quiet, and also to caution and lead out Excuse all such who by those gentle admonitions will not be reclaimed and to lett all know those very persons who were by Act and Principles therein and too sensible of your falsities and will know that they have made a publick Acknowledgement and entered into solemn Engagements to obey and abandon of all such future We doo therefore humbly Pray your Ex<sup>ty</sup> that it may be published proclaimed and made known that all the said Rumours and Stories and false foreign and scandalous and malicious inventions and spread abroad by John Todd as principle author and others that have suffered thereby and soe probably would by said Todd also but that he is fled into Virginia and there harboured is whom his Majesty's good Subjects may be commanded and required not onely to forbear assisting and comforting but to seize and apprehend him Where soe ever found In this Province and convey to the next Justice of peace to be sent to the Court of the County according to a former Proclamation and use due help and Expert that all persons will take warning and thereby cautioned against such practices for the future it appearing to us that your Ex<sup>ty</sup> is desirous and inclined rather to caution and reprove than punish for it and not to take advantage against any for what is past provided they behave themselves as they ought for the future and use help all persons take due notice and conform themselves as they will answer God hereafter at their utmost Conscience

Signed by the Justices of the Provinciall Court

Robert Smith, Tho. Staley, John Hammond, John Colclough, Richard Hill, John Kasker, Thomas Saker

Rec<sup>d</sup>. from Mr. Richard Beard arms belonging to the County as follows; hind fusces hind Hung Ditto three Worms; one long Bukelmouth, hind falow boxes hind bolts Ditto I say Rec<sup>d</sup>. the same for the use of Brines George County this 27<sup>th</sup> 1693

Maryland Know all men by these presents that wee George Blater William Dent of Charles County and Jacob m... of St. Marys County Gent<sup>l</sup> are holden and firmly bound unto his Ex<sup>ty</sup> Francis Nicholson Esq<sup>r</sup>. his Majesty's Cap<sup>t</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup> and Govern<sup>r</sup>. in Chief of this Province in the full and just sum of one thousand pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid to the said Francis Nicholson Esq<sup>r</sup>. his Ex<sup>ty</sup> adm<sup>r</sup>. or Assignee the which payment is to be made and by our selves and either of us our and either of our heirs Ex<sup>ty</sup> and Admin<sup>r</sup>. Royally and lawfully the whole and in whole firmly by these presents with our hands and Seals the 22<sup>th</sup> day of Octob<sup>r</sup>. 1693 The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas his Ex<sup>ty</sup> Francis Nicholson Esq<sup>r</sup>. of hath Comissioned and appointed a above bound George Blater Esq<sup>r</sup>. to be a Justice of the Peace of the County of St. Marys and by his Comission bearing Date the 12<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1693 P. George shall well and truly performe the said Office according