

City Annapolis February 26<sup>th</sup> 1797

By his Excellency John Hopkins Stone  
Governor of Maryland.

A Proclamation.

Whereas it is represented to me that some wicked and evil disposed person or persons, have several times wilfully and designedly set fire to different buildings in this city. To bring to condign punishment the perpetrators or perpetrators of this most atrocious crime, as well as to prevent the dreadful calamities consequent to such enormities; I do hereby offer a reward of one hundred and fifty Dollars, to any person who shall discover the wicked incendiary or incendiaries aforesaid, to be paid to such person whenever any offender shall be convicted thereof in a Court of Law.

And I do promise full and free pardon to any person being an accomplice in the commission of the said crime, who shall discover the perpetrator or perpetrators thereof, so that he or she or they, or any of them be convicted thereof.

And I do require all Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, Constables and other civil officers within the said City, to exercise all their legal functions, in discovering apprehending and bringing to punishment the said offenders, And I do enjoin all the good citizens of the City of Annapolis, vigilant to aid and assist the civil authority as well in making discovery of the offenders aforesaid, as to avert the direful consequences attendant on such nefarious practices, and