

1658.

At a Councell held 23rd July¹⁶⁵⁸ } Present The Governour
at Annapondell } The Secretary

Col. Nathaniell Vrie
This morning was sworn of his Lordships Councell, Mr Edward Lloyd and from the Councell went to assist the Governour at the County Court.

After the Court was ended the Councell mett againe and there being then Present

The Governour } Col. Nathaniell Vrie
The Secretary } Mr Edward Lloyd

Took into consideration the insolent behaviour of some people called Leaders who at the Court, in contempt of an oower then made & proclaimed, would presumptuously stand covered, and not only so, but also refused to subscribe the engagement notwithstanding the Act of Assembly in that case provided allowing they were to be governed by Gods lawe and the light within them & not by mans lawe, and upon full debate finding that this theyr refusal of the engagement was a breach of the Articles of the 24th of March last, and that theyr principles tended to the destruction of all Government.

Ordered

That all persons whatsoever that were residing within this Province on 24th of March 1657 should take & subscribe the said engagement by the 20th of August next or else depart the Province by the 25th of March following upon paine to be taken due to Rebels & Traitors if found within this Province after the said 25th of March, & that a Proclamation be forthwith drawn to this effect.

Proclamation

By the Lieutenant & Governour of Maryland.

Whereas upon the Surrender of the Government to me his Highnes Lieutenant on the 24th of March last past amongst other things it was then agreed that the oath of fidelity should not be pressed upon the inhabitants then residing within this Province, but that in place and stead thereof an engagement should be taken in manner and forme as in those Articles (relation unto them being had) more at large appeared And whereas by Act of this last General Assembly the said Articles are confirmed & the said engagement by a Lawe commanded to be taken To the end the said Articles may be inviolably observed and that all jealousies and fears be removed These are in the Lords Proprietaries name strictly to charge & Command all persons whatsoever to make their oower to the Clerkes of the respective County Courts at or before the 20th day of August next ensuing to make theyr subscriptions to the said engagement or else that they provide themselves to depart this Province by the 25th day of March next and to declare that all persons who shall refuse to subscribe the engagement within the time before