

protection or trading within this Province their right of appeal
and bringing Writts of Error in our Provinciall Court as now by law is used
and we command the Sheriff of our said County, ^{that} at the said days and places
by you or any four or more of you to be appointed as aforesaid to cause
to come before you such and so many honest and lawfull men of this
County as they will by whom the truth of the premises may the better be known
and returned into the Court wherof we have raised the great seal of
our said Province of Maryland to the said Court to be effected the eighth
day of March in the fourth year of our Dominion over our said
Province Annoq. Domini. One thousand six hundred seventy eight

Maryland

By the Lord Proprietor
A Proclamation

Whereas we are given to understand that the trade of this Province
is greatly decayed and that one great reason thereof is that debts cannot
readily be recovered as matters in the usual Administration of Justice now
stand which in the beginning of the settling of this Province was sufficient
effectually by the habitation or at least near neighbourhood of the Justices
of our Provinciall Court who then were no ways hindered by weather or
other casualties from giving their constant attendance at the usual Courts
which are frequent enough if weather and distance of place did not
hinder their meeting and so inevitably cause frequent adjournments
Wee therefore for the ease and benefit of all his Majesties Subjects either
residing in this Province under our Judiciall Government or Spending
hither and for the more speedy recovery of debts which is the life and
by the advice of our Council have thought fit hereby to Publish
that we have by Commission under our great seal empowered Commission
in each County of this our Province to hold County Courts for tryalls
of all causes of debt arising within their County and brought there
against the inhabitant of that County by whom soon or whensoever
Contracted whether by bond bill or Chauce and to any value ^{with} sooner
serving to every man notwithstanding his liberty to prosecute in
our Provinciall Court as formerly or in the said County Courts at his
pleasure Whereof we command the severall and respective Sheriffs
of the Counties to make Publick Proclamacion at the usual
places in their respective Counties and then to leave the Proclamacion
fixed in the Place where their County Court is usually held Wherof
they are not to fail Given at our City of Saint Mary of under
our great seal of our said Province of Maryland the eighth
day of March in the fourth year of our Dominion Annoq. Domini 1678