

into their consideration & that for redress of grievances of that nature a Proclamation be issued forth w^{ch} was accordingly Done and is as followeth

By the L^{tes} Gen^l

a Proclamation

Forasmuch as I have been credibly informed by great complaints generally recd from all parts of the Province of great abuses & excesses committed by several Sheriffs of the Province upon severall of the Inhabitants of the same that the said Sheriffs do assume to themselves an exorbitant illegall power of Lawing Executions when & where they please and printing of Doing the same for his Loppes Dutie & other Officers their notwithstanding the same have indeed been fully paid and satisfied, threatening & terrifying the Inhabitants out of the same by colour of their Office. And whereas I have been also informed that such persons as have been so wronged & abused as aforesaid have been by insolent and haughty behaviour of the Sheriffs terrified from making their just Complaints known, and consequently of receiving any redress and relief in their grievances. Which my self and his Loppes having taken into consideration and willing to clear our selves of any aspersion that may be cast upon us, and to make known that we do not tolerate uphold or justify the said Sheriffs in such their insolent and abusive behaviour I do hereby by and with the advice and consent of his Loppes Council pronounce and Declare that such illegall proceedings have not w^{ch} have been willfully suffered or committed as by my self and his Loppes Council or any of us but have been acted contrary to mine or their knowledge not having been truly informed of the same otherwise should have taken timely care to prevent the progress thereof suffering and Endeavouring nothing more than to maintain and uphold the peace and quiet of the Province and to keep and preserve the Inhabitants from all and all manner of Oppression whatsoever. Wherefore if any persons have been aggrieved in the premises I do by and with the advice and consent aforesaid publicly and Declare that both my self and his Loppes Council will be ready and willing at all times to receive & receive any Complaints that shall be presented in to us, and do desire all persons concerned that have at any time been wronged or abused by the Sheriff or other publick Officer that they would exhibit their information to the Justice of the Provinciaall Court or to his Loppes Attorney Generall by and such course may be taken forthwith redress and for prevention of the like for the future as may be needfull and as to right & justice belongeth. And further Whereas it has been usual Custom and practice of the said Sheriffs of the Province to exact exorbitant fees for Execution of a writte of cap: ad satisfact: as for an Exh^{ibit} or fieri fac: contrary to all right and good reason, I do by and with the advice & consent aforesaid pronounce Declare & make known that such fees are not allowable and therefore not to be Demanded or taken by any Sheriff within the Province. But do hereby will and require as also strictly charge and command all and singular the Sheriffs of the Province to take due cognizance hereof, and

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