

Charles Absolute Lord and Prop^{ty} of the Province of Maryland
and Avalon Lord Baron of Baltimore &c. To our two House of Assembly
to our Chanc^l of our said Province of Maryland and to our Justice of
our Provinciale Court, and all other our Officers within our s^d Province
of Maryland Greeting in our Lord God Everlasting. KNOW YE that
taking into our consideration that One of the most important affairs
of this our Province is the establishing the succession of lands, goods
and Chatt^{ls} from the dead to the living, which by the common practice
of all people hitherto dwelling in this Province hath been settled by
last Wills and Testam^{ts} and for come to be transacted before our
Judge for probat^e of Wills and granting Administrations (though
many times the wills and Testam^{ts} have concerned lands only) And
further considering that the distributing of Justice in the relief of Orphans,
Legates, and recovery of filiall parts by the s^d Judge, but
for want of a correct power in the said Judge to enforce obedience to his
performances of the Rules order and definitive sentence of the said Judge,
Justice hath been retarded, suitors delayed, and Delinquents encouraged
to persist in their contumacy and contempt. We willing to promote
Justice according to the power given us by our Charter to wit what
Courts and with what powers we shall think fitt for the better and
more speedy distribution of Justice to all persons within this our
Province. Doe hereby GRANT to our Judge or Commissary general
for y^e time being and to all future Judges of our Court for probat^e of
wills and granting Administrations to be by us or our Heirs and
Successors lawfully hereafter constituted and appointed that in case any
person or persons shall disobey break or contravene
any Order Decree or finale sentence of our s^d Judge being duly
obtained and made by our said Judge in our s^d Courts it shall and may
be lawfull for our said Judge to issue out such process of contempt
as is now used in our Court of Chancery of this Province, and at last
to imprison as Justice and the Law shall require, any former Law
usage, or practice to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding
GIVEN at our City of St. Marys under the great Seal of our said
Province of Maryland the Sixth Day of September in the Sixth year
of our Dominion of Annoq^{ue} Domini One Thousand Six hundred
Eighty and One. Witness Our Self.

Mindw the 20th Day of September 1681: his L^{ty} during the
sitting of the Assembly having read four Letters concerning the Indians
came into the upper house of Assembly and communicated y^e same thence
to his Council afterwards to y^e lower house with his L^{ty} Letter to
both houses, being all as followeth