

from the Sheriff of Prince Georges County, and by Report from several other People, that many the Inhabitants of this Province, have met in several Places thereof in a tumultuous manner, and cut up Tobacco Plants growing on many Plantations without Leave of the Owners of the said Plantations, and desires their Advice what is necessary to be done relating thereto who are of Opinion that Proclamations ought to issue immediately promising a Reward therein of fifty Pounds to any Person who shall discover any of the Principal Offenders, so as they be convicted thereof by due Course of Law, which Proclamation being prepared, is read & agreed to by this Board, and ordered to issue accordingly

Maryland's

By His Excellency Samuel Ogle Esq. Governor & Commander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland

Whereas I have received certain Information that many ignorant and unwary People have met in a riotous manner in several Parts of Prince Georges County and cut up the Tobacco Plants growing on the Plantations of great Numbers of the Inhabitants of that County and threatened to carry on the like violent and unwarrantable Practices in other Parts of the Province in open Violation of the Laws of their Country and to the Disturbance of the Publick Peace which unlawful Proceedings have very probably been fomented & carried on by the Artifices of a few wil minded People, under pretence of the Publick Good (which is the proper Care of the Legislature and Government, and cannot be attained by popular Tumults) in hopes to accomplish Designs they dare not own unless they can delude the unwary Multitude, and involve them in so much Guilt as may render them desperate, otherwise a People remarkable for their peaceable behaviour and Disposition could not have been prevailed to do such Acts of Violence as may be ruinous to many families & from which the Publick or any particular Person cannot possibly derive any Advantage To the End therefore that such unlawful Practices may be suppressed, the peaceable Subject secured in the Enjoyment of his Property, the misled People undeceived, and the fomentors and Authors of the Publick Disturbances duly punished I have thought fit with the Advice of his Lordships Council of State to issue this my Proclamation, forbidding all Riots Routs and unlawful Assemblies and strictly charging all his Lordships Officers Civil and Military to exert their Authority in suppressing and apprehending all Rioters Routers or other Disturbers of the publick Peace, and more especially charging and commanding the several Sheriffs within this Province from Time to Time and as often as there shall be Occasion to raise the Power of their Counties in Order to preserve the Peace and to seize & apprehend all Disturbers thereof that they may be prosecuted according to Law and do hereby promise a Reward of fifty Pounds to any Person who shall discover any of the said Principal Offenders for every One of them who shall be duly convicted according to Law, and do Declare that all who have been seduced and misled by such Incendiaries to disturb