

Ordered By the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary that
the following Proclamation sh^{all} be

Maryland^s.

Baltimore By the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary
A Proclamation

Whereas several of Our Tenants by Colour of Grants Surveys or otherwise hold larger Quantities of Land than are mentioned in such Grants or Surveys or were Intended to be granted to or Surveyed for them or those under whom they claim For which Surplus Lands they or those whose Estates they have never paid any manner of Consideration to the great Prejudice and Injury of Us and the hindrance and Discouragement of others who would have taken up and Improved such Surplus Lands, And Whereas all the Measures which have hitherto been taken to prevail on the Possessors or holders of such Surplus Lands to pay for and to take out Patents or Grants to Invest themselves with Estates of Inheritance in them (as in Common Justice & Equity they ought to have done) have proved Ineffectual and the said Possessors or Holders have unjustly withheld and still withhold the said Surplus Lands under a vain and groundless pretence that the Words more or less in their Grants or Surveys Intitle them to great Quantities of Land which they or those under whom they claim never Bought or paid for, which Practice is in itself so manifestly unjust and so Injurious to Us and the Province by hindering the peopling and Improvement thereof that We are Determined not much longer to Induce it but to assert our own just Right with all convenient speed either by Vacating the Grants containing such Surplus as fraudulently obtained or otherwise as the Case may require which We had long since done had We not been Restrain'd by the greatest Fondness and regard for the Quiet and Welfare of our Tenants and the hopes We entertain'd that they would of their own Accord have taken the proper Steps to have done us Justice and Secure to themselves and their Posterity Indisputable Estates upon very easy Terms in the Surplus Lands by them Possessed To the Ends therefore that no Person who is Possessed of or holds any Surplus Land by Colour of any Grant Survey or otherwise And For which the Consideration hath not been really and Bona fide paid to Us or Our Ancestors May pretend Surprise or Ignorance We have thought fit by this Our Proclamation to publish and Declare and We do hereby Publish and Declare that any person who is Possessed of or holds any Surplus Lands by Virtue or pretence of any Grant Survey or otherwise And for which the Consideration hath not been paid as aforesaid And who shall Neglect or Refuse to apply to our Land Office in order to pay for such Surplus and Obtain our Grant in due form for the same on or before the fourteenth day of June Anno Domini 1766 shall be Proceeded against according to Law in order to Vacate the Grant or Grants containing such Surplus as Fraudulently and unjustly