

such seditious and illegal Confederacies and Associations might by the same dangerous Principles be prevailed upon to resist with force that lawful Authority of this Government which was so intended to be executed over them, It was thought absolutely necessary to support the said Sheriff in the Execution of his Duty with such Assistance as might be sufficient to repel any Resistance or Violence that should be opposed or offered against such Sheriff, which prudent and justifiable Caution has been so much mistaken as to be interpreted a Levying of War against his Majesty's Subjects of the Province of Pennsylvania, upon this weak Pretence that those Parts of Baltimore County where the said Sheriff went to discharge his Duty aforesaid lay upon or adjacent to the Northward of an East and West Line which was, by a solemn Agreement entered into by the Lord Proprietary of Maryland and the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, now subsisting and under the Cognizance of his Majesty's high Court of Chancery, fixed and established as the Boundary of their respective Provinces; Whereas, it is a Truth too well known to be denied or the contrary to be believed, that this solemn Agreement can never have any Effect to fix and establish the Boundaries of the Provinces, unless the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania should be able, by the Justice of their Cause, to obtain a Decree in his Majesty's high Court of Chancery for that Purpose in their favour, in which Court that Cause is still depending and under the Cognizance thereof, so that before the Point, whether the Lord Proprietary shall be obliged in Conscience and Equity to perform that Agreement, be determined in his Majesty's high Court of Chancery, no justifiable Claim can be asserted by virtue of any of the Boundaries expressed in that Agreement, nor would the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania have been put under the Necessity of applying to obtain (if they can) the Aid and Assistance of the high Court of Chancery to strengthen and enforce the Execution of that Agreement; if that Agreement had still subsisted and continued good and effectual in Law; Notwithstanding all which plain and well known Truths several weak minded Persons have been so far infatuated as in a tumultuous and riotous Manner to meet & assemble together in Baltimore County aforesaid with some bold and insolent Disturbers of the Peace of this Province in Order to oppose and resist the Officers of Justice in the Execution of their Duty, and to screen the aforesaid illegal Confederates and their Abettors from the Justice and Law of this Province; As such daring and dangerous Attempts and Practices affect in a very particular manner the Peace and Happiness of all his Majesty's Subjects in this Province and may if not timely discouraged and prevented be attended with the most fatal Consequences; We have thought fit by this our Proclamation as well to assure every Inhabitant of this Province, who behaves himself in a peaceable manner subject to the Laws of this Province of the utmost Protection and Countenance of this Government; as to endeavour the apprehending and bringing to condign Punishment any of the Actors in or Promoters of the illegal Combinations and tumultuous meetings aforesaid; And for those Purposes We hereby strictly require all Judges Justices Magistrates and other Officers within this Province to be vigilant and active in their several Stations for maintaining Peace and good Order within their respective Counties strictly charging and commanding the high Sheriffs of the several Counties within this Province especially the high Sheriffs of the Counties of Baltimore and Cecil to hold themselves in Readiness with the People of their respective Counties to suppress all illegal Combinations and Disturbances and disperse all tumultuous and riotous Assemblies and Meetings either by apprehending and securing all such Persons as have been the Incendiaries Abettors Authors or Parties in any of the aforesaid Practices or tumultuous Meetings or shall hereafter be a Promoter or Promoters aiding or assisting in any other Disturbances for the future; And in general that the said Sheriffs exert