

and may be for their safety and Defense against any future Invasion

To surprizing alterations endeavored to be justified by such Pretences so greatly alarmed this Government with the dangerous consequences which might ensue not only to this Province but to every other part of his Majesty's Dominions in America, that they thought their indispensable Duty required their utmost care to disabuse these deluded People and to make them sensible how much they had misbehaved themselves as Subjects to his Majesty and Tenants to Your Lordship; For this purpose the proper Sheriff of the County had Orders as well to demand and levy on those Inhabitants their just Proportion of the legal Taxes due to this Province, as to apprehend and secure so many of them as he could find, in Order that they might be forthcoming to answer in due Course of Law for their Misdemeanor in attempting to disturb the Peace of this Province by their avowed Disobedience to the Laws thereof. And as this Govern<sup>t</sup> might reasonably conclude these unfortunate People had been privately encouraged by some Persons daring enough to protect them against any Prosecution; therefore the said Sheriff had Directions to take to his Assistance in the Execution of his said Office some of the Militia of his County, in pursuance of which Command the said Sheriff attended by several of the Militia repaired to that Part of his County where those Inhabitants resided; there he found them shut up in a house (which an armed Number of Inhabitants of Pennsylvania had taken Possession of) and after his Demand of their being delivered to him was obstinately refused, the said Sheriff with the said Militia departed in a peaceable manner, and distrained some few of their Goods for their Proportion of Taxes.

This Conduct of the Government of Maryland We humbly hope will appear to your Lordship proper and reasonable; but We presume to acquaint Your Lordship, that the Government of Pennsylvania thought fit not only to consider it in another Light, but to make Use of it for purposes destructive of the Lives and Properties of his Majesty's Subjects and Your Lordship's Tenants; For that Government, under Pretence that those Parts of the Country lay to the Northward of a Line mentioned in an Agreement now under the Cognizance of his Majesty's high Court of Chancery to determine whether it shall bind Your Lordship, was pleased to issue a Proclamation under a specious Colour of preserving Peace, but really to inflame and incite the Inhabitants of their Borders (which that Government then acknowledged was filled with People of more than ordinary Spirit) to the Commission of horrid and cruel Violences.

It is with the most sensible Concern, may it please your Lordship, that We must own these Designs of the Government of Pennsylvania had too soon their desired Effects, for an armed Multitude pretending to be Inhabitants of the Province of Pennsylvania headed by a Sheriff and Magistrate of that Province beset the House of One Thomas Creap who had always held the Land he then lived on under a Title from Your Lordship as Lord Proprietary of Maryland, acknowledged himself Tenant of this Province and constantly paid his Taxes and Dues to the same and acted for some time past as a Magistrate thereof; And in further Execution of their pernicious Intentions these outrageous People set fire to the house (in which there was then the Owner his Wife Children and six other men) and burnt the same down to the Ground with all the Effects of the said Owner to a very considerable Value; Nor was the Spirit of these Incendiaries allayed by this bold Violation of all Laws, but when the unhappy Wretches then in the House endeavored to save and defend themselves from the flames and those merciless Men, a continual firing of Gun followed, which

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