

Colony do every Year by publishing there many false  
 Reports concerning us and our Affairs as well as by other sul-  
 til Means endeavour to disquiet the minds of the People  
 there and to infuse Jealousies and doubts in our Officers &  
 others thereby to breed diffidence and division if they can be  
 between us and them as well as amongst themselves which  
 may in time prove to be of dangerous Consequence to the  
 Enrichment of divers honest men whose intentions are  
 Good were they not so deluded we do therefore will and re-  
 quire your said Lieut and Council to use your best Endeavours  
 upon all Occasions for the timely suppression of all such false  
 Rumours and Reports as aforesaid and to find out the Au-  
 thors and Publishers thereof and to cause them to be Punished  
 According to their demerits and we also Recommend it to  
 the Consideration of our General Assembly there whether it  
 be not Convenient to make a Law in that Province as there  
 is in England for the punishment of all such as shall  
 publish false news to the disturbance of the minds of the Peo-  
 ple and the publick peace for the better prevention of the  
 Mischiefs which by Experience have been found to be caused  
 thereby not doubting but our said Assembly will be assen-  
 sible of any dishonour or wrong which may be done unto  
 us by any such false Reports as we are and ever shall be of  
 any Prejudice which may happen by that or any other way  
 to them or to any of the Inhabitants of our said Province  
 for the better Manifestation whereof and of our mind in all  
 Other things herein contained we have thought fit and do  
 hereby will and require our Lieutenant of our said Province  
 of Maryland for the time being to cause this our Declara-  
 tion to be read to the upper and Lower house of our General  
 Assembly there and to be published at the usual Places