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Marched up into Lancaster County and with Sound of Trumpet before him rode amongst the Inhabitants to Unanimously
and Portasia them in their Adherence to the Lord Baltimore and their Opposition to Pennsylvania but
finding that neither his own Endeavours nor those of the aforesaid Chesape notwithstanding the
Countenance given him could prevent those Germans who by false Suggestions had been prevailed
on to own the Government of Maryland from returning to their former Proprietors of
Pennsylvania The Deputy Governour of Maryland sent up in September last about
Three hundred men in Arms under proper Officers with Drums and Trumpets to
Support the said Thomas Chesape and strike Terror into the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania
the only Instance in America we humbly presume where one British Colony have taken
upon them to Lay War upon another but when the Officers who commanded those Forces
from Maryland appeared not forward to Commit Acts of Violence such was the
Inhumanity of the said Chesape that he urged them with great Vehemence to fire on some
of the People of Pennsylvania who were passing over that River in Boats to Inquire into
the meaning of such an Armament in that part of the Country but this Attempt
was no sooner Over than another Design was set on foot by Maryland to Dispossess
those Germans, a Number of Men were Encouraged by the Deputy Governour of
that Province to take Grants for those Lands who with an armed Force were to
Throw the miserable People with their Families Women and Children out of their
Plantations and from all the Fruits of their Labours to be Exposed without Shelter
to the Rigours of the Winter Season for no other Reason than that they could not
in Conscience any longer own the Lord Baltimore for their Proprietor while
They were seated on Lands that cannot possibly fall within the Limits of
Maryland and for effecting this cruel Purpose the said Chesape was furnished
by the Deputy Governour of Maryland with about two hundred Small Arms
and suitable Ammunition but thro' a happy Providence their Project
was discovered some of the Heads with Officers of the Confederates being
Seized in Pennsylvania who have made a full Confession of the whole Design as
Projected by them with the Deputy Governour of Maryland, yet the said Chesape
was authorized to List and actually Listed men at the rate of Twelve pounds
a year with Diet and Lodging Sweeping them to be faithful to the Lord
Baltimore true to himself and to go upon all such Enterprises against
the Pennsylvanians as said Chesape should Direct he then Breathed Rage and Fury
Threatned Destruction Couverted with his People the Murder of some and
burning the Houses of others the Inhabitants of Lancaster County could now
think themselves no longer safe after such a Discovery while the person
Appointed to execute all these Designs was so strongly Supported so furiously
Incited and furnished with such means of Distressing them but as the
Principles of the People who first settled the Province of Pennsylvania and of
those who at present have the Administration of the Government are well known
to be against all Military Force and being sensible that all Military Attempts of
one Subject of the Crown of Great Britain upon another are Unarrantable
they therefore only granted legal Warrants to the Sheriff of Lancaster County for
Apprehending the said Chesape that he might in a Course of Justice answer for
the notorious Offences he had committed and the said Sheriff having for some
time been possessed of a Warrant from the Provincial Judges for taking the said
Chesape on a Charge of Murder found by the Coroners Inquest the People being
fully alarmed by so manifest a Prospect of their Danger called upon the
Sheriff at all Events to execute his Warrant in which they would assist him
for that they rather Chose at all Hazards to attempt the Taking that Dangerous
and Barbarous man than to see continually Exposed to his Violences
Accordingly the Sheriff attended with a Number of the Inhabitants of the County
most of them of German Protestants and other Europeans of the German
of the Churches of England and Scotland of late Years Arrived there)