

By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His
MAJESTY'S Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of
VIRGINIA, and Vice Admiral of the fleet.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

AS I have ever entertained Hopes, that an Accommodation might have
taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this Colony, without being
compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary
Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled, firing on His
MAJESTY'S Tenders, and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on
their March to attack His MAJESTY'S Troops and destroy the well disposed Sub-
jects of this Colony. To defeat such unreasonable Purposes, and that all such
Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and
good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course
of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Pro-
clamation, hereby declaring, that until the afore said good Purposes can be ob-
tained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His MAJE-
STY, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed
throughout this Colony: and to the end that Peace and good Order may the
sooner be restored, I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort
to His MAJESTY'S STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His
MAJESTY'S Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty
the Law inflicts upon such Offences; such as forfeiture of Life, confiscation of
Lands, &c. &c. And I do hereby further declare all indented Servants, Negroes,
or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms,
they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily
reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His MAJESTY'S
Crown and Dignity. I do further order, and require, all His MAJESTY'S Leige
Subjects, to retain their Quitrents, or any other Taxes due or that may become
due, in their own Custody, till such Time as Peace may be again restored to this
at present most unhappy Country, or demanded of them for their former salu-
tary Purposes, by Officers properly authorized to receive the same.

GIVEN under my Hand on board the Ship WILLIAM, of NORFOLK,
the 7th Day of NOVEMBER, in the SIXTEENTH Year of His MAJESTY'S Reign.

DUNMORE.

(GOD save the KING.)