

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 same.

## 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 treasonable 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 aforesaid 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 effected, 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 indentured 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, off NORFOLK,  
the 7th Day of NOVEMBER, in the SIXTEENTH Year of His MAJESTY'S Reign.

DUNMORE.

(GOD save the KING.)