

and of the Religion & Liberties thereof; which by the great Lib. H. D.
providence & mercy of Almighty God was (by a timely discovery) prevented; and duly considering that such great & publick Blessings do Call for publick and solemn acknowledgm^{ts} I have therefore thought fit (by the advice of his Ma^{ty} hono^{ble} Council) to issue this my proclamation, hereby appointing & Commanding that a generall thanksgiving to Almighty God for these his Mercies be observed on thursday next within the Port & Town of Annapolis by the Justices of the provinciall Court now sitting and all the inhabitants & others then & there residing, and in the severall Counties & places within this province, on the third thursday in June next, strictly charging all his Ma^{ty} loving Subjects within the same to abstain p. 346
from servile & corporall labour on those days & religiously to keep the same, and that the Ministers of the severall parishes do then Read divine Service & preach, as they will answer the contrary; And to the end due Notice hereof may be given, I do further Command the severall Sherriffs of the province to make Proclamation hereof in all Churches, Chappells & other publick places of Meeting within their respective Counties; Given at the port of Annapolis vnder the Broad Seal of the province, this 19th day of May in the Eighth year of his Ma^{ty} Reign &c^a Annoq Domini 1696.

God Save the King. ffr. Nicholson

On the back of the s^d proclamation was thus written, Viz^t Whitehall

The Sherriffs are also Required to give Notice to the Gentlemen of his Ma^{ty} hono^{ble} Council & Members of the House of Burgesses within their respective Counties, that the Royall Commands being Rec^d the Assembly will sit according to prorogation on the first of July next.

Signed p Ord^r

Hen: Denton Cl Concl.

M^r Speaker, the Burgesses & Justices of the Provinciall Whitehall
Court do pursuant to Ord^r come vp, to whom was Read the afores^d severall Letters & papers; the Acco^t whereof (by private Letters, and from the hono^{ble} S^r Thomas Laurence Baron^t Secretary) was also given them yesterday; After which his Excell was pleased to Express his joy for the s^d happy News of deliverance, by a publick Entertainm^t made to the Gentlemen, begining his Ma^{ty} health.