

Proclamation Against Patrick Henry, 1775

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*By his Excellency the Right Hon. 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 Proclamation.

VIRGINIA, *to wit,*

WHEREAS I have been informed, from undoubted Authority, that a certain *Patrick Henry*, of the County of *Hanover*, and a Number of deluded Followers, have taken up Arms, chosen their Officers, and styling themselves an Independent Company, have marched out of their County, encamped, and put themselves in a Posture of War; and have written and dispatched Letters to divers Parts of the Country, exciting the People to join in these outrageous and rebellious Practices, to the great Terrore of all his Majesty's faithful Subjects, and in open Defiance of Law and Government; and have committed other Acts of Violence, particularly in extorting from his Majesty's Receiver General the Sum of £. 330, under Pretence of replacing the Powder I thought proper to order from the Magazine; whence it undeniably appears, that there is no longer the least Security for the Life or Property of any Man: WHEREFORE I have thought proper, with the Advice of his Majesty's Council, and in his Majesty's Name, to issue this my Proclamation, strictly charging all Persons, upon their Allegiance, not to aid, abet, or give Countenance to, the said *Patrick Henry*, or any other Persons concerned in such unwarrantable Combinations; but, on the Contrary, to oppose them and their Designs by every Means; which Designs must, otherwise, inevitably involve the whole Country in the most direful Calamity, as they will call for the Vengeance of offended Majesty and the insulted Laws, to be exerted here, to vindicate the constitutional Authority of Government.

*GIVEN under my Hand, and the Seal of the Colony, at Williamsburg,
this 6th Day of May, 1775, and in the 15th Year of his Majesty's
Reign.*

DUNMORE.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Citation: Lord Dunmore, Proclamation, May 15, 1775, Colonial Office 5/1353 (folio 150), Public Record Office of Great Britain, Public Record Office, Kew, England (available on Virginia Colonial Records Project microfilm at the Library of Virginia).