

to the great damage & punishment of those persons  
 who have thus despised the power the same they have  
 already brought to condign punishment & will undoubtedly  
 be the portion of all that shall persist in such evils

And forasmuch as your Excellency hath of your Good  
 pleasure caused so far as to lay before the Court & Council  
 by lately present at Annapolis to a very great number  
 the several Rumors & Reports that have of late been In-  
 vented & spread abroad against this his Majesty's Gov<sup>t</sup>  
 & made them all appear by records & other undeniable  
 proofs to be some false some scandalous & all malicious  
 to the full satisfaction & beyond contradiction in the  
 minds of all persons present & to the conviction of those  
 Gentlemen inasmuch that it hath been represented to your  
 Excellency & your Excellency prayed to give forth procla-  
 mations through this province thereby to discharge his  
 Majesty's Good Subjects & to settle them in peace & quiet  
 & also to caution & leave without excuse all such who  
 by these gentle admonitions will not be reclaimed & to  
 let all know that those very persons who were the actors  
 & principals therein are so sensible of the falsity & evil  
 thereof that they have made a publick acknowledgment  
 & entered into solemn Engagements to avoid & abandon  
 the like for the future

We do therefore humbly pray your Excellency that  
 it may be published proclaimed & made known that all  
 the said Rumors & Stories are false feigned scandalous  
 & Malicious Invented & spread abroad by John Crook  
 as principal Author & others that have suffered thereby  
 & so probably would the said Crook but that he is fled