

"Province of Maryland, whilst I shall reside in the said Province, all Treasons and Traiterous Conspiracies, which I shall know to be against his said Majesty or his Successors. And I do further swear, that I will, to the utmost of my Power, defend, support, and maintain, his said Majesty's Dominion, in and over the said Province, and also defend, support, and maintain, the Peace of the said Province against all Invasions, Rebellions, and Insurrections whatsoever: And all these Things I do plainly and sincerely swear, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the said Words by me spoken, and according to the plain and common Sense and Understanding of the same Words, without any Equivocation, mental Evasion, or secret Reservation whatsoever. So help me God." And shall also repeat and subscribe the Test before a Magistrate of his County; which said Oath any Magistrate (who shall be required by the Captain or Commanding Officer of any Troop or Company) is hereby obliged to administer to every Person who shall enlist as aforesaid, under the Penalty of One Hundred Pounds Current Money in Case of Neglect or Refusal so to do. And if any Person enlisted as aforesaid, being required to take the Oath aforesaid, and repeat and subscribe the Test aforesaid, shall refuse or wilfully neglect to do the same, then and in such Case the Magistrate aforesaid is required to commit such Person, for neglecting or refusing, to the County Goal, by his Warrant, to be directed to the Sheriff of that County; and the said Sheriff is hereby required and directed to receive and take into his Custody, and strictly to confine such Person, so as aforesaid to him committed, until such Person shall take the Oath aforesaid, and repeat and subscribe the Test aforesaid, and pay his Fees, or pay the Sum of One Hundred Pounds Current Money to such Sheriff, together with his Fees. And if any Person, who shall be so committed and discharged out of Custody, upon Payment of the aforesaid Sum of One Hundred Pounds Current Money and Fees aforesaid, shall presume to have or keep in his Possession, or in his House, or upon his Plantation, or elsewhere, any Fire-Arms or Ammunition, such Person shall forfeit and pay the further Sum of One Hundred Pounds Current Money.

VI. *AND be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That in ten Days after the Publication of this Act, the Colonel or Commanding Officer of every Regiment, Troop, or Company, in the Militia of this Province, shall issue his Warrant to his inferior Officers, directing them to make diligent Search and Enquiry in their respective District what Arms and Ammunition shall be therein, and return what Number of Arms and what Quantity of Ammunition they shall, on such Search and Enquiry, find or discover, and the Condition and Kind of such Arms and Ammunition, and who shall be possessed thereof, distinctly in Writing, under the Penalty of Twenty Pounds Current Money upon the Colonel or Commanding Officer aforesaid neglecting his Duty in this Behalf; and the Penalty of Five Pounds Current Money on the inferior Officer charged with the Execution of such Warrant, who shall neglect to comply with his Duty herein, within five Days after receipt of such Warrant. And all and every Person and Persons shall, on Demand, produce his or their Arms and Ammunition to the said Officers charged with the Execution of such Warrants, under the Penalty of Five Pounds Current Money, for his or their every wilful Neglect or Refusal so to do.

VII. *AND* whereas on many Occasions, Arms, Ammunition, and military Accoutrements, of different Kinds, have been delivered out of the public Magazines of this Province, and are now dispersed among the Inhabitants, and have been sold or lent from one to another; and it is represented, that the Locks have been taken off from many of the said Arms, and put to private Use: Therefore, for discovering the said Arms, Ammunition, military Accoutrements, and Locks, and rendering them of Service towards arming the Militia of this Province in this Time of common Danger,

VIII. *BE it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That the Captain of every Troop or Company of the Militia shall, within ten Days after the Publication of this Act, issue his Warrant to his several Corporals to make diligent Enquiry within their Limits for all Arms, military Accoutrements, and Locks, belonging to the Public; and the said Corporals are hereby required, as soon as may be after Receipt of such Warrant, to repair to the Habitation of every House-Keeper, within their respective Limits, and demand of him such Arms, Ammunition, military Accoutrements, and Locks, as he hath in his Possession belonging to the Public, and immediately on such Demand such Person shall deliver the same to the said Corporals: And the said Corporals shall give Receipts for all such Arms, Ammunition, military Accoutrements, and Locks, as shall be delivered to them, and shall bring them from Time to Time to the next Muster, after the Receipt thereof, and deliver them to the Commanding Officer who shall be there present, who shall give the said Corporals a Receipt for the same, and shall forthwith deliver them to the Colonel or Commanding Officer of the County, who shall give the said Officer a proper Receipt for the same. And such and so much of the said Arms, Ammunition, and military Accoutrements, as are fit for Service, shall, by the said Colonel or Commanding Officer of the County, be delivered to such Persons of the Militia as are by this Act deemed unable to provide the same. And such Arms and military Accoutrements so delivered to him as shall be unfit for Use, the said Colonel or Commanding Officer of the County, shall have mended and made fit for Use as soon as possible, and delivered out as aforesaid, and his reasonable Charge for the same shall be allowed in the next County Levy.

IX. *AND be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That every Person, of whom any Arms, Ammunition, military Accoutrements, or Locks, belonging to the Public, shall be demanded as aforesaid, refusing to deliver the same, as before directed, immediately on such Demand, shall forfeit and pay treble the Value of such Arms, Ammunition, military Accoutrements, and Locks, with Costs, to be recovered in a summary Way, before any Magistrate of the County wherein such Person shall reside. And in Case any Justice of the Peace shall by any Means be informed, or suspect, that any Person hath in his or her Possession, any Arms, Ammunition, military Accoutrements, or Locks, belonging to the Public, after such Demand made by the Corporal as aforesaid, he shall issue his Warrant immediately to such Corporal, or his Successor, to seize and take such Arms, Ammunition, military Accoutrements, and Locks, and bring them, together with such Person, before him, and in Case it shall appear that the same do belong to the Public, the said Person shall forfeit and pay treble the Value thereof; and moreover the said Justice shall order the said Corporal to keep safe and deliver them up as before directed, and shall give Judgment against such Person to pay such Corporal Two Shillings and Six Pence Current Money. And if any Dispute shall arise, at any Time, whether any Arms, Ammunition, military Accoutrements, or Locks, do belong to the Public or not, the *Onus Probandi* shall lie on the Person in whose Possession the same shall be.

X. *AND be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid*, That every Colonel or Commanding Officer of the County, and every other Officer above the Degree of a Captain, who shall neglect his Duty, by this Branch of this Act, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Pounds Current Money for every such Neglect; every