

U. H.
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much too little that they have in a manner forced the King by their Clamours to a War with the Dutch to make room for them to trade your second reason had been of some weight, but that convincing Argument hath given You sufficient Security You shall never want Traders, or Shipping if You have a Commodity worth fetching. But to your second reason We further say It is not the Shipping's barely coming hither that We are to wish for but their Importation of Goods to Clothe Us & if We take fifty thous^d hh^{ds} tob^o out of the Trade as by not planting it for one Year We shall make it valuable & worth the adventuring Goods hither to purchase it and by Consequence have Clothing & necessarys for it which if We persist to keep the Markett glutted We shall never have & if We have necessarys for this & the next Years Crop now ready to be planted what need We further desire shipping than to carry it away & so much will undoubtedly be sent by those whose Subsistence is by the trade of Tobacco when they know before hand they can have none the next Year following if Merchants trading this Way do settle their Trade in other parts it will be no Calamity since England can afford others that are not acquainted with the ways of grinding the face of the poor used by some now, which hard usage hath reduced already the poorest Sort of People of this Province to a Condition little better than that pagan & salvage manner of living which You seem to fear from a Cessation.

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3 The third Reason is founded upon stealing his Majesty's Customs by Seamen & were not worth the Answering, but that perhaps some Men might think there is more weight in it to sway a Man's Judgm^t against a Cessation from planting Tobacco for a Year than in truth it doth, Wherefore We will give You not Grant You that Seamen will not come for any other Commodity but Tobacco, & therefore Assure you that We will not plant so much tobacco or so long till it be worth nothing to them or Us, & We do Conceive the Lower House cannot in prudence think it fit to have the Province plant Tobacco merely to have the Seaman's Company even now when the Planter gets nothing for it. In short our design is to advance the price of Tobacco to make it worth planting & fetching & that Yourselves say will invite the Seamen when there is Tobacco & when there is none We need him not.

4. But whither shall the Freemen go? Not to Virginia because there is a Cessation nor to the other American Plantations because Yourselves say their Commodities are as Contemptible as Tobacco, & We have demonstrated that no prudent man will make that perishable Drug Tob^o in these parts therefore he must of necessity stay here & if permitted to plant Tobacco till it will not supply his Wants having nothing to lose will at last rob others that are better furnished