

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers, Vol.
XVIII, No.
144.

to all, that Know those parts that such as are industrious and frugall, live in great plenty in compare to the husbandmen of England, of the same rank, and divers of them grow from nothing to great estates, and the reason is cleare for a painfull and able man will in a Summer make his four hogsheads of Tobacco which at the rate as it now is will produce in England fourteen or fifteen pound which will buy him cloathes and another servant cleare, besides which he will plant corne enough to find himselfe, and to sell for four or five pound more, and reare a stock of Cattle &c. And therefore as for their calculacōn of two hundred thousand pound sent thither in goods &c by w^{ch} those Gentlemen would inferre the pittifull Income the planter hath for his labour he believes there is both a mistake in the Calculacōns, and a non sequitur in the inference, and that if the Merchants Warehouses here should be searched a little afore new Tobacco come home it would be found that the liberty of Planting hath not swelled the quantity so much above the consumption as those Gentlemen alleadg.

Thirdly he thinks he hath reason to doubt that the Petition from Virginia for this stint was a designe, either to cause some ill reflections upon him and Maryland, as an obstruction to a pretended publique good, or else to putt a notable disadvantage upon Maryland by proposing that which if not consented to might produce the first, and if consented to would certainly produce the second, and his reason is the cause if their designe had been only to lessen the quantity of Tobacco as is pretended they would have embraced what was proffered by the Assembly in Maryland, and himselfe since, abundantly sufficed to that end, For as soone as the Assembly in Maryland understood from him that upon a former Petition about two yeares since, his Majesty in Councell by the above mentioned order of the 29th June 1662. was graciously pleased to recommend to both Colonies the considering of some way for lessening the great quantity of Tobacco the Assembly in Maryland proffered to concur with Virginia to a totall cession from planting any Tobacco at all in either Colony every third yeare which would have been a way free from all exceptions of inequality and most effectuall to the end intended, and at his last meeting with those Gentlemen he proposed it as a way he was ready to concurre to, but it was not accepted. Then for their owne way of a stint it was also proffered to concurre to it, so it were not to the notable prejudice, and disadvantage of Maryland, that is so as there were an allowance of twenty dayes to Maryland, to plant Tobacco after the stint days in Virginia, to balance the difference of the climate. There being above 3 degrees of northerly latitude distance betwixt the northern parts of Maryland and the southern parts of Virginia,