

U. H. J. for the Encouragement of the Tob^o Trade Which provides abundantly more for the relief thereof And answers all the Ends of the Virginia Law, I am now of opinion you will not employ much of your time about that particular

The great Condescension of the Crown in parting with so considerable a Branch of the Revenue in your favour by passing an Act for the encouraging of the Tob^o Trade and the immediate Benefitt and Advantage you will reap from it, It will be demonstrated by the Act itself which I shall send down to your House for your Perusal

Gentlemen—I am inclinable to impute the decay of the Revenue here more to Accident in Trade than to any Intention of the Good People of this Province to defraud the Crown, but what was at first only the Accident of Trade is now grown up to a pernicious Custom by which the Revenue is greatly impaired as will evidently appear by a Law made in an Assembly of the 30th April 1679

To that Law I am referred by my Instructions which I shall communicate to you for your Information

True It is that the Circumstances of Trade are much altered since that time, and as it would be of evil Consequence, to reduce your Cask to the former Weight so It is very injurious to the Crown If a due regard & proportion be not had to its Rights, It is therefore expected on his Majesty's behalf that you will reform those Abuses. The Inhabitants of this Province with a commendable Industry use their best Endeavours to Cultivate the Growth of Tob^o And there still remain many spacious Tracts of this fertile Soil, especially on the Eastern Shoar which are not so agreeable to the nature of that profitable Plant, but excellently well adapted to the making of Hemp what of this kind has been hitherto only raised for an Home Consumption in the opinion of the Mariners equals the best that grows in Europe

An Improvement of this Manufacture is worthy your mature Consideration; you have already great Encouragem^t from the Crown for Importation, you are certain of a market in England for your Produce and have a Sufficient Quantity of Land as I am informed to supply Great Brittain with Cordage forever.

The want of Seamen to navigate your vessels is a mighty obstacle to the Trade of this Province and since the Humour of the Generality of the people is such that they will not send their Children to Sea, if some method were found of disposing annually of a certain number of the youth maintained by the several Countys It would in few years be of considerable use