

imported in Vessels that belong to other Merchants than the two Contractors who have  
thought fit on this Occasion to bestir themselves, the Truth is that many Servants are  
imported annually from different parts of England Scotland & Ireland but the Masters  
do not often receive more on board than can be conveniently accommodated while  
those Contractors who have only a certain Number of Vessels in the Maryland Trade  
must it seems at particular Times empty the Jails & by that means it sometimes hap-  
pens that they oblige the Masters of their Ships to receive on board twice the Number  
they ought to bring, little anxious themselves of the Consequence to the Inhabitants here  
nor very solicitous whether or no the Crowding too great a Number of the poor Wretches  
into a small Compass may not be the means of destroying some of them. When there  
are more Convicts to be sent out than their Ships bound hither will receive conveniently  
Let them assign the Surplus to some other Merchants who will be glad to take them  
off their hands or bring them hither for a reasonable Freight, & as only a moderate  
Number will then be transported hither in any one Ship very few will lose their  
Lives on the Passage & people here will not have such reason to dread their Arrival.  
The Contractors may indeed say that if it is notorious such destructive Distempers are  
frequently imported in Convict Ships why do people by purchasing encourage the  
Importation of them, to which it might be answered that there are in all Societies  
People that will run all Risks for the sake of making Profit; but it becomes the  
Legislature as far as can reasonably be done to prevent other Persons suffering by  
the Proceedings of People of such Dispositions: that the Assembly have by the Act in  
Question complimented the Governor with pretty extensive Power is indeed true but  
they thought it was necessary to lodge it somewhere & I flatter myself Experience will  
teach Mr Kinggold that it is at present in hands that will never exercise it to distress  
Trade but only so far as the Welfare of the Province makes the Exercise of it expedient  
& absolutely necessary. That the Act is in some degree defective & rather too severe I  
will not deny but it may be amended & I will recommend it to the Assembly at the next  
Session to make it less objectionable & particularly to appropriate a Sum of Money  
for building a Lazaretto. Finding they could not immediately succeed in their Appli-  
cation for a Disent. Mess<sup>r</sup> Sedgley & Co in Bristol have I find furnished their Ship with  
a Ventilator which they may be ashamed of not having done long ago & Mess<sup>r</sup> Stewart &