

Obligations on the Masters of such Ships to take no Tobacco on Board but from such who will consign to the Employers of such Masters especially when they have so much much Advantage by Clouty of Broughters as to force it thereby engrossing all the Consignments they can to themselves and frustrating the Advantage which Ship- ping ought to be to the Nation. Hence we presume it comes to pass that they have made this Scruple about the Size of the Hogheads of this Province exceeding that of Virginia. We have enquired into their Gauge and find ours now used exceed but two Inches in Diameter of the Head being equal in Length and for justifying our Size we humbly offer this Reason to your Majesty: That the Tobacco generally made in Virginia is a more substantial thick waxy Leaf and by consequence weighs heavier and contains greater Number of Pounds in one Hoghead of their Size and their Tobacco than in one of our Size filled with our Tobacco which is more light and chaffy inasmuch that they (as we compute) ordinarily get three thousand two hundred Pounds of Tobacco carried home as cheap as we get two thousand two hundred which only Reason being taken into your Majesty's Royal Consideration we hope will induce your Majesty to suffer us to hold the same Gauge which is so trivial a Damage to the Storage of Ships that we wonder any should trouble your Majesty with it. But if any hereafter through Crookedness make their Hogheads above the Gauge we are willing either to subject them to greater Penalties or the Commanders of Ships may make them pay an higher Freight proportionable or refuse to take or agree for the Freight of them.

Now Dread Sovereign having as we think truly stated the Case of this Province your Majesty will discern who bears the Burthen and consider we cannot but justly complain when we see our ~~Wares~~ <sup>Wares</sup> cropp'd and defaced and the Tobacco by great Parcels taken out of the Cask which should defend it and thrown into Holes and Corners and most abominably abused in Quality so liable to Plunder and Pilage and other Damages too many to particularize to your Majesty wheroby it comes to pass to our too certain Expence that our Tobacco comes very light home and being consign'd to the Owners of the Ships by the Artifices aforesaid, by whom such Damage ought to be repaired, and the Owner himself the Agent that should demand it, we go altogether ~~without~~ <sup>without</sup> Redress being so far from the spot and scene where such abuses are committed. This puts us upon making the Law against cropping which yet proves but of small Effect to restrain it but hope we have hereby shown Reason to induce your Majesty now only to favour this Bill but any other that may be devised to secure our Goods from such Rapines and Plunder, and in a special Manner to accord your Royal Favour to support us, which Favour we stand in need of seeing all your Subjects because we think we are the most imposed upon by the Owners and Masters of Ships and the least able to help ourselves. And we do with all Humility

(humbly)