

Neither doth it clearly appear to Us that the departure of the Freemen will be a misfortune but may possibly be an Advantage to the Freeholder, & they are the Strength & only Strength of the Province not the Freemen, It is their persons purses & Stocks must bear the Burthen of the Government both in Peace & War & not Freemen who can easily abandon Us & could they depart the Province in General (which We know they cannot) & would the Freemen do it, Yet if to gain them to stay We should forbear to do that which is best for the Freeholder of the Province that hath Stock Wife & Children fixed & irremovable as We may say here We were unworthy to be called the two Houses of Assembly but We do know that they either cannot leave the Province for Poverty or will stay in it till the mean price of Tob^o drive them out of it or else which We more fear force them to Committ Outrages in it for want of Necessarys not to be provided by Tobacco because Worth nothing.

U. H.
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5 Your first Reason says your Quantity of Tobacco doth not lessen the Price here but the Want of Ships to fetch it away, What is this in plain English but to say that there is more Tobacco than the Ships that are or were here this Year can carry away? Have We not then Glutted the present Markett here why then shall We not have a Cessation to make tobacco bear a Price here, & that It will bear when every Ship that by chance comes cannot have loading Witness that Year when M^r Humphry Warren M^r Rozer & others gave two pence p lb. Bills of Exchange than pay dead Freight when the Tob^o in London yielded not above three half pence, Neither do yourselves offer at any Hopes of more Shipping nor can in prudence Expect the War should End these two Years during which time It were vain to plant that which by your own Arguments cannot be fetched So that upon the whole Matter We see no Reason to recede from our desires of that Act for Encouragement of Trade at least our Trade for what imports it Us to hear that Tobacco bears a Price at London or in Russia if it will not buy Us Shirts here It is here We must make it stand & then it will be dear and purchase Clothing Arms & Ammunition which now it will not & without them We must needs all perish

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Wherefore the Governour & Upper House do Conjure You Gentlemen of the Lower House to consider the calamitous Condition of the Province in want of Cloths at home, Assaulted by Enemyes abroad & no means provided as yet to make our only Commodity Tobacco of sufficient Value to purchase either Clothing for ourselves or Arms to defend Us

The last Assembly denied us a power to maintain War without the limitts of the Province the Consequence of that was the unrevenged nay as yet unrevengeable Murther of thirty