

[26 Sept. 1651.]

Domestic  
Interregnum.  
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Whereas the Parliament of England by an act intituled an act prohibiting Trade with the Barbadoes, Virginia Bermudas and Antego hath committed to this Councell severall powers therein expressed for the settling reduceing and governing the said Islands printed Copies of which Acts are herewith delivered unto you. In pursuance whereof a fleet is now set forth victualled Armed and Manned under the command and conduct of Capt. Robert Denis to effect by the blessing of God the ends aforesaid and for the management of that service you are joyntly nominated and appointed Commissioners And for your better directions and proceeding therein you are to follow and pursue these Instructions following.

Such of you as are here are to repaire on board the Ship John or the Guynie Frigott of the States, which of them you shall thinke fitt and wind and weather permitting to sayle to Virginia as Capt: Robert Denis shall direct and appoint.

And upon your arrivall at Virginia you or any two or more of you (whereof Capt. Rob<sup>t</sup> Denis to be one) shall use your best endeavours to reduce all the plantations within the Bay of Chesopiack to their due obedience to the Parliament of the Commonwealth of England.

For which purpose you or any two or more of you whereof Captaine Robert Dennis to be one, have hereby power to assure pardon and Indemnity to all the Inhabitants of the said plantations that shall submitt unto the present Government and Authority as itt is established in this Commonwealth. In which pardons you may make such limitations and exceptions as you or any two or more of you whereof Capt: Robert Dennis to be one shall thinke fitt.

And in case they shall not submitt by fayre wayes and meanes you are to use all Acts of Hostillity that lyes in your power to enforce them. And if you shall find the people soe to stand out as that you can by noe other wayes or meanes reduce them to their due obedience you or any two or more of you (whereof Capt: Rob<sup>t</sup> Dennis to bee one) have power to appoint Captains and other Officers &c to raise forces within every of the plantations aforesaid for the furtherance and good of the service; And such persons as shall come in unto you and serve as soldiers if their Masters shall stand in opposition to the present government of this Commonwealth you or any two or more of you whereof Capt: Rob<sup>t</sup> Dennis to bee one, have hereby power to discharge and set free from their Masters all such persons soe serving as soldiers.

You shall cause and see all the severall Acts of Parliam<sup>t</sup> against Kingship and the House of Lords to bee received and