

P. R. O.
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In all dutiful Obedience to yo^r Lo^{pps} Order of the fifth of October last Wee whose names are under written have attended the Right Hon^{ble} the Lord Baltamore and treated with his Lo^{pp} to see whether wee could joyntly fix upon any fitt Proposition to p^rsent yo^r Lo^{pp} for the Lessening the Quantity and soe consequently to improve that Comoditie to the Advantage of both Collonies But not being so happy as to have his Lo^{pps} Approbation to anie thing wee could propound, nor conceiving what his Lo^{pp} offerd us would at all Conduce to the desired end, Wee thought it our Duty to persue the Last part of yo^r Lo^{pps} Order by presenting our Proposals apart, which wee have most humbly done Leaving them to yo^r Lo^{pps} more grave Consideracōns to determine or Reject.

First, Wee most humbly represent That the vast Quantities of Tobaccos Yearly made in Virginia and Maryland hath soe glutted all Markets both att home and abroad that it does now very little more than pay his Ma^{ties} Customs, And should it further increase as in all probability it must (the Makers yearly doing soe) that then shortly it will not pay the accustomed Duties of Transportation so farr will it be from giving Maintenance to Thousands of his Ma^{ties} Subjects that both here and there wholly depend upon it.

If yo^r Lo^{pp} but please to make a Valluation of the English Manufacturies that those places pent you will find it not less than two hundred thousand pounds per Annu^m. If you take the Computacōns of the People they are forty thousand at the Least the Number of the Hogsheads they yearly make fifty thousand, the Produce at the most three pounds per hoghead, Soe that by this Scale yo^r Lo^{pp} will plainly perceive the pittifull and Inconsiderable Incombe the Planter hath for his Labour, when ffive pounds a head is the most for all Necessaries, Clothings, Howsing, Working Toolles and Supply of Servants And att the yeares end when wee shall sitt down and Cast up our Accompt, wee shall sadly find our annual Ballance ffifty thousand pounds wanting to bee worth Nothing.

This my Lords Wee hope will plead to yo^r Lo^{pps} the Necessitie of a Regulation in this Comoditie, Since the Exorbitancy of Planting hath swelld the Quantitie so much above the Consumption that it hath already brought it to soe Low and Contemptable a Rate, that the Planter is noe way able to live by his Labour Struggling daily with such inextricable Necessities as will in tyme (as justly may be feared) make him desperate and prove a sadd Consequence of indangering the Peace (if not the ruine of his Ma^{ties} Country).

It may perhapps bee objected to yo^r Lo^{pps} That the Comoditie hath formerly beene as very a Drugg as now, The price as Low, and yet the People subsisted peaceably and quietly.