

he humbly conceaves your Lordships will not think it reasonable an experiment should be made as they desire at the cost of so many Masters and owners of ships and Traders to those parts, which the said Gentlemen alleadg no other ground for but the confident affirmacōn of many Knowing men (who may perhaps have a designe of their owne interest in it) and which though they please to call it a harmless experiment would hazard the undoing of a multitude of the lesser Traders to those parts, as was demonstrated in the reasons exhibited to the Councill Board against that Proposall which he hath ready to shew to your Lordships if required.

P. R. O.
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To the last Proposall for lessening the quantity of Tobacco by a stint, and that the same stint day may be imposed upon Maryland as Virginia.

First he humbly represents to your Lordships that if there be not a notable lessening of Tobacco by such a stint it will be of little avail to the end pretended, and if there be, it will be very prejudiciall to his Ma^{tie} and the present Termes of the Customes, by notably lessening the Customes and excise upon that Commoditie which he hopes will be alone sufficient to put a stop to this Proposall.

Secondly he cannot see any ground for the pretended great necessity of lessening the quantity of Tobacco nor do they make it out by any prooffe but onely things of their owne affirming which he can as easily deny as they affirme, and he wonders at their saying that Tobacco is brought to so low and contemptible a Rate that the Planter is no way able to live by his labour, struggling daily with such inextricable necessities as may be justly feared will in time make him desperate and indanger the peace of the Country, when these consequences of despair and Mutinie, are much more to be feared from the way they propose of restraining the Planter in Maryland without a Law of the Country, in their liberty, which they conceive is their Birthright as Englishmen of planting what quantity they please of that Commodity, which is to be their money to buy them clothes, tooles, and all other necessaries for their subsistence, which priviledge and liberty they hope they have not lost by adventuring their lives and fortunes thither which hath produced to his Majestie a revenue of above twenty thousand pound yearly, which is paid in England for the Custome and excise of the Tobacco which comes from Maryland alone, and the Planters there are so farre from any such Poverty as those Gentlemen alleadge and from rot being able to live by their labours that if there be any that live in a poore manner it is not from the low price of Tobacco, but from their owne sloth, ill husbandry, and profusely spending their cropps in Brandewine, and other liquors, it being evident, and Known