

and consequently three weeks difference in the seasons for planting Tobacco.

Fourthly he thinks fitt humbly to represent to y^r Lordshipps some difficulties not yet perhaps foreseen that are like to encounter the practice and execution of this way of a stint; viz^t 1. that the seasons for planting Tobacco happen sometimes so variously and uncertainly that if the stint day be set so early in the year as certainly to lessen the quantity of Tobacco it may, it may indanger that very little or none shalbe planted and so undoe the Planter as for example if the stint day had been last yeare the 20th of June, as is desired in the Petition from Virginia, there would have been no Tobacco planted in Maryland and perhaps not much in Virginia, for last year there was no season to any purpose in Maryland till the 20th of July. 2. That there wilbe no means of convicting transgressors without either encouraging servants to inform against their Masters, or next Neighbours one against another, both which wilbe odious and dangerous for perjury and setting families in combustion both within themselves, and one against another, or else appointing Officers in every County, or hundred to veiw every severall Plantation afore, and presently after the stint day, to note and number how many hills, or what portion of a field is planted before the day, which in so many Plantations so farr distant one from another as they are in those parts wilbe a matter of great charge and trouble and no officers wilbe found willing to undertake it without considerable salary for their paines, and no way to raise those salaries. Moreover if any Officers should be appoynted to see to the execution of it, it is to be feared there wilbe that negligence, corruption or partiality in it, as will render it ineffectuall to the end intended as was found by experience in a like Act in Virginia for burning Tobacco, which by this meanes came to nothing.

Lastly if your Lordshipps notwithstanding all these reasons against it, shall think that way of a stint day for the planting of Tobacco in those parts to be necessary he hopes you will think it just and reasonable that the stint day in Maryland should be at least twenty days after that which shalbe set for Virginia for the reason above alleadged of the difference of the climate, that which those Gentlemen oppose to this having (as he humbly conceaves) no force of reason in it, for, 1. the difference of seasons for rain alters with the clime and so raine may be more frequent at some times to the Northward and yet in Summer more early to the southward. 2. It seems strange those Gentlemen should think it a reasonable answer to salve the difference of the clime, that Maryland may helpe itself by hott beds when. 1. that remedy is not practicable by the generality of Planters there, that have neither horses nor