

& trade of Tobacco is not so low & contemptible as those of Virginia who were partyes to that peticoñ pretended.

P. R. O.
Colonial Pa-
pers, Vol. 21,
No. 133.

3° The restraining of the poor people from planting Tobacco (their only meanes of livelyhood and substinance) would very probably much endanger the Peace of the Province. To which reasons then offered he craves leave now to add these following, aryseing from late and fresh experience.

1° There are more Ships this year bound for those Colonies than have gone thither in any one year since they were first planted, which would not be if Tobacco (their onely Comodity) were of no esteem, or that it were a drugg wth which all Markets are glutted.

2° Though the quantity were lessened, and the price thereby inhanced in these parts, yet the poorer sort of Planters (who are the most in number, and of whom the Lord Baltimore must have as tender a care as of the rich) would have no advantage of it, ffor these wanting clothes, and necessaries wth w^{ch} they were unable to stock themselves beforehand for so long a time as a whole year (in which no supplies will come) will be inforced to sell their Comodity either to the Merchant, or the richer Planters at the buyers price, so that which is desired may probably have the effect to make the merchants here or the more substantiall Planters these (who have stocks to engrosse the Comodity) more rich, but it would wholly ruine the poor who are the generality of both Provinces.

This answer being delivered in, after severall debates, the whole matter was by your Ma^y referred to the Lords Committees of this Board for Plantacōns to consider and report their opinions to your Ma^y whereupon the said Lords Committees upon a full hearing of all partyes November the 19th 1664 (at which your Ma^{ties} foresaid Instructions to Sr William Berkeley were urged by the Virginia Agents) and after having consulted with the farmers of the Customes thought fit (amongst other things) to report to your Ma^y That the proposall touching a Cessacōn, stint or limitation of Planting Tobacco in the said Plantacōns is inconvenient both to the Planters and your Majesties Customes.

Upon which report your Majesty present in Councill was pleased the 25th of Novem: 1664 to order expressly that there should be no Cessacōn, stint or limitation imposed on the planting of Tobacco in those plantacōns a copy of w^{ch} order is hereunto annexed, which he humbly prayes may be read although they take no notice of it at all in their Representation.

And this was the end of that troublesome business for that time, and the Lord Baltimore did hope that such a positive Order made by your Ma^{ties} in Councill would have put an end to it for ever.