

removed from his place of Collector for his Maj^{tie} in Maryland; he having been a great knave to the king, and as great a disturber of the Trade, and Peace of my Province. I am now bold to send herewith to your Lordship a writing sworne to by one of my Councill, by which it will in some measure, appeare to your Lordship what ill principles this Rousby is of, and how seditious, and wicked he is in his common discourses; this being the least matter, in that kind, he is guilty of, For I dare affirme that he is as great a Traytor in his heart to his sacred Majestie as is this day liveing Since this Rousby went for England one Badcock, a Surveyor for his Majesty here, came about a fortnight agoe to acquaint me that though some Masters of Vessells from Poole and Lever Poole (which lately arrived in my Province) had brought certificates of bonds to carry their lading of Tobacco to England, Ireland &c: (the Act for nine years, w^{ch} excepted Ireland, being some time since expired) yett such Masters ought and were obliged to pay the penny p. pound here afore they could be permitted to cleer with my officers. To this I gave answer, that I was sensible Ireland was now open; and that since at London, Bristol, Poole and Lever Poole such Bonds were taken by the Officers of those ports (as by certificats, produced here, appeared to me they had taken), I thought it a sufficient Rule for me, and my Officers to walke by, and therefore told the said Badcock I would not suffer him to molest any Masters, that had such certificats, unless he could affirme, they were counterfeited, and so unduely had; w^{ch} he durst not say they were; and yett he had the impudence to tell me afore some of my Councill, that he would complaine to the Com^{rs} of the Customes, that I hindered his discharging his office; when, my Lord, I was satisfied, his intent was only to cheat the Merchants concerned in those vessells of soe much money as a penny p. pound would have come to; for his Maj^{tie}'s duty was secured by the Bonds given at Poole and Lever Poole, which Bonds this Badcock did own to be legally taken, and the Certificates, produced here to be good. By this your Lordship may see what hungry indigent fellows are appointed to serve his Maj^{ty} here, such as would dishonour the king, cheat his subjects and drive all manner of Trade out of my Province, if they were permitted to act thus at their will and pleasure. Good, my Lord, lett me beg the favour that you'll please to procure that such dissolute fellows may be removed out of office for his Maj^{ty} here and that the Comm^{rs} of the Customes may be required to appoint some persons of good estates and Livers in my Province to serve the King here; for such will be carefull to discharge their Trust faithfully, and will also have some respect to the Govern^{mt}

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers.
B. B.