

28th Aprill last directed to my Lord Privy Seale & transmitted to yo^r Honors by the Lords Comissioners of his Ma^{ties} Treaty pursuant to an Order in Councill thereunto annexed. I doe humbly offer in my owne defence.

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

That whereas my Lord Baltemore sath Hee hath had great cause of complaint ag^t mee wthin these two yeares and hath writt to yo Hono^r but suspects I have intersepted his letters. I utterly deny that I ever did interrupt any Letter of his Lōpp in my life nor was it in my power to do it. And further as to this matter I humbly referre my selfe to what I have already said in this point in my Answere to his Lop^s letter of the 29th of Aprill directed to yo^r Hono^{rs}

2. Whereas his Lōpp says hee may tearme me a Divell for that I have carryed my selfe with that pride to West country men & New England Trade that many have quitted a Trade they long have had there. I humbly affirme that I have ever carryed my selfe wth due Respect to all Men according to the best of my Judgment & Discretion and am not guilty of any such pride as is alleaged nor ever deserved soe foule a Character. But further I say as in my answere to his Lo^{ps} said letter to your Hono^{rs} that possibly some New England men (and perhaps others not qualified to carry Tobacco out of the province) have quitted a Trade they have long had there (as his Lo^p says) which Trade was in truth to lade Tobacco there, & to carry the same whether they pleased without paying his Ma^{tie} any Custome at all. And for such irregular and illegall Traders or Dealers to leave his Lopp^s province will be Diminution to his Ma^{ties} Revenue, but the Contrary for that the Tobacco notwithstanding such mens leaveing it will all be brought to England, Wales or Barwick (as it hath been for these two yeares last past) and consequently his Ma^{ties} Customes will be paid for the same. And now because I have used all lawfull endeavours to suppress and prevent that Course & Trade of defrauding his Ma^{ties} Customes, and to reduce the Traders and Dealers in that Province to a compliance wth the Law (which if I had not done I should have thought my selfe altogether unfitt for yo^r Hon^{rs} employm^t, or to be in any way intrusted in his Ma^{ties} service) My Lord Baltemore goes about to persuade my Lord Privy Seale that this is a Crime in mee for w^{ch} I ought to be turned out of my place to make roome for his Ladys sonne-in-law.

3. I deny the imposing of fees exacting of presents seizing or troubling of Masters in any respect whatsoever to force them to comply with my unjust demands as is alleaged, or ever troubled any master in any case but where I conceived absolute necessary for his Ma^{ties} Interest. And I deny that ever I forwarned Masters of Ships or vessells from entring wth