

and saith hee is almost assured they were delivered into my hands, and soe never carryed out of the province. To which I answer that they were never in my custody nor was it in my power to stop any mans letters much lesse his Lord^{ps}. And if hee did send such letters as hee speaks of, I suppose he has not forgott to give an accompt thereof nor was it difficult for him to send duplicates thereof by some other conveyance as is usuall especially seeing hee suspected their intersepcon.

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

As to his chargeing mee with prowde carriage to west Country men, new England men, his Lo^{ps} Officers & himselfe seeing hee hath instanced in nothing, I cannot possibly understand in what points hee meanes, nor what further to say than that I have ever carryed my selfe as submissively & dutifully to his Lo^p and as respectively to the rest as possibly I could and as the Duty of my office obliged mee to doe. Whereas his Lo^{pp} charges mee with exacting fees from all Masters of ships and vessells upon their entry and clearing out of the province, and that a Crowne a vessell is the least they escape with and that some are forced to make me presents for their dispatch I deny that I ever demanded or allowed or suffered any one under mee to demand so much as one penny of any other master than such as came from other Plantacones, or produced no certificates from England and soe were obliged by Law to enter into Bond of navigacon there for Entry whereof and for their Bond, Discharge &c: Though I never took Farthing my selfe I confesse I did suffer my Clerk to demand of some Masters of small Vessells 2^s 6 and of others where there was more entrys outwards 5^s. But where one M^r paid three did not. And I can saifely say that all that ever was received upon such score, did never amount to thirty shillings in any one yeare since I had the employment. But I am informed if I had taken what was justly due it would have amounted to much more. And I doe utterly deny that I ever deteyned any ship or vessell whatsoever but where I thought it absolute necessary for the Kings service. And I doe verily beleive that noe one man breathing will say hee was ever threatened or stopped by mee, or any under mee upon any such score as to make mee Presents.

As to what is alleadged against me for receiveing Certificates from Masters of ships of their having given Bond in England, and not suffering them to carry the same to his Lo^{pps} Collectors I answer that while his Lo^p was last in England, hee left his Ladys sonne a very young man to be his Collector, who trusted the business to a young Irish Fellow imployed by him as Clerk, and I having occasion to see some certificates which were said to be left in their hands (without which I could not perfect my accompt of shipping for your Hon^{rs}) The Certifi-