

6th December 1681 London.

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers.

Deare friend

You will doubtless thinke it Strange to heare that I am not yet out of my trouble occasioned by my Ld. B. but yet I thanke God though I move slowly I have not miscarryed in any place but have lately gained a very great point and doe stand very faire to Effect not only my owne but your Business alsoe whereof I hope to be able to give a good account in a short time and though the Character given of mee by his Lordsp^p be as black as Hell yet am I not Looked upon to be soe profligate or despicable a Rogue as hee Sets me foorth but have mett with faire hono^{ble} and just dealing and severall Unexpected friends and some not of the meanest Ranke. Here is great news lately, A Grand Iury of great Eminency for Estates and Iudgement was sworne to goe upon the Indictment of my Lord Shaftsbury who was then in the tower the witnesses were Turberuile Smith, Booth, Haines, Baines, and a Crew of Irish Blades They all swore like Stoute Sinners but the quality of the persons Improbability of the Testimony of some Contradiction of others and the Certaine knowledge of some of the Iurors that a paper found amonngst Shaftesbury's writings touching an Association upon which great Stresse was putt was a thing don in parliament time and Concerning which some motions had been made in the house of Commons which if it had been a Contrivance done out of Parliament tyme might have amounted to treason I say upon the whole matter The Iury brought in the Bill Ignoramus The last day of the hearing which was this day Seaven-night (The Earl of Shaftesbury, My Lord Howard of Escrick one M^r Willmore M^r Wilson and another all Comitted for treason were upon their habeas Corpus, Admitted to Bayle and suffered to goe at large there was at the old Bayly when the bill against Shaftesbury was brought in Ignoramus Great Rudenes by shuteing and noise Comitted by the Comon people in the Court many Bonfires were that night made in the Streets by the Rabble who in Some places were too disorderly to the people that passed forcing them to give money towards their fires and Drinking the Earles health which hath been very ill Resented and Complained of. But it is the common opinion That if they had found the Bill against the Earle many hundreds of the Whig-gish party would presently have been committed to prison for that is the tearme of distinction from the Court party called Torys—In the Interim, Beware of that Treacherous false Lying Swearing Deceptfull Man M^r G Low whose false forward foolish Affidavit against me in order to Strippe me of my office and take away my life. I hinted to you in my last letter and beware your Selfe and Soe I pray desire my Brother and all