

P. R. O. Colonial Papers. that His Majestie would be pleased therewith, for as I remember there was an order of His Majestie's in Councill of the 5th November 1664, wherein it was expressly commanded, that no cessation, stint or limitation of planting of Tobacco should be in either of these Colonies, which Order I know not but may be still in force. Since that answer of mine to Sir Henry Chicheley I have had noe letter, which I expected I should have had from him the last month, the Assembly of Virginia being then met, and the Assembly here sitting about the same time, these great disturbances makes me heartily wish my Lord Culpeper were settled in his Government, for until then I expect not, that ever there will be that certainty of peace, and quiet there which I could wish. Besides this bad news from Virginia, which doth greatly perplex and trouble me, I have yet a greater affliction on me at this time, occasioned upon my receipt two days since of a letter from His sacred Majesty bearing date the 8th day of February last; wherein (to my unspeakable greefe) I perceive myselfe fallen under His Majestie's most high displeasure, a misfortune that I once hoped never to lye under, and altho' I am at this present, struck with that sense, that every loyall subject ought to feel upon any displeasure of his Sovereign, yet I still hope by my humble petition to His Most Excellent Majestie, which I will presume to send by the next ship for London about tenn days hence, to make it appeare, that notwithstanding I have transgrest and thereby have most justly deserved His Majestie's anger, it was not a crime wittingly and knowingly committed by me; but drawne to the transgression thereof by a wilfull concealment in the surveyor, and Comptroler here of their Instructions from the Comissioners of His Majestie's Customes, as alsoe of the order of Council of the 16th of February 1680. which, Sir, I doe here protest, and declare in the presence of Almighty God I never had sight of from either of them, and therefore let me beg that you'll please to take this following account: Some time last year after M^r Christopher rousby his Majestie's Collector went for England, there arrived here a vessell from Poole, one Alexander Dennet master, and another from Liverpoole the master of which was one Tarleton, both which masters brought Certificates of bond given in England for transporting their tobaccoes for Ireland, there was alsoe one Sheppard Comānder of the S^t George of London with the like Certificate who arrived a considerable time afore the two former; M^r Nicholas Badcock, His Majestie's Comptroler, and Surveyor here, comes to me, and signifies, that he had been with Dennet and Tarleton to demand the penny per pound duty, and that they refused to pay him any, unless he would give them security to beare them harmless to their owners, never