

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers.

pired, and that the said Badcock did confess the Act of Navigation was againe in force, and the Certificates of Dennet, Tarleton and Sheppard, did make mention of Ireland, my uncle did conclude I was in the right; which was only his advice, and noe order of Councill in relation to it. After this I demanded of M^r Badcock what made him soe confident in his opinion, for he began to be very high, and told me he would complain to the Comissioners, I demanded of him whether he had any instructions for what he stood upon, that if he had, or any late order, I knew not of at that time, he would doe well not to keep me in the darke: but, in the presence of Almighty God I here declare it, that he never made mention of any instructions nor of His Majestie's Order in Councill of the 16th February 1680. which I find since he had by him, but would produce neither to me, for had he but given me the least hint of his instructions or of the said Order of His Majesty in Councill, I had been the most impudent of men to have withstood my Sovereigns commands therein: but as I have already assured, I doe againe, Sir, here solemnly protest in the presence of God, that as I never was permitted either by Rousby the Collector, or Badcock the Comptroler and Surveyor, to have a sight of the instructions from the Comissioners of His Majestie's Customes to them, soe I doe alsoe in like manner affirm, that until some months after Badcock's death, I never saw His Majestie's Order in Councill of the 16th of February 1680; which in December last, I received from the Comissioners with their letter of the 19th of September last; and did in my letter of the 26th of January last (which was my answer to that letter of theirs) acknowledge my receipt of the said order; and afore that letter of theirs I never had any notice of the said order. To the truth of all this I am and will be ready upon the least notice from your selfe that His Majesty comānds it, to goe over to M^r Secretary Spencers in Virginia and there make oath afore him not only to every particular of what I now write; but alsoe of what I writ to you by Cap^t Christopher Evelin, by whom I presumed to send you a large pacquett in February last; the which I hope may have ere this arrived at your hands. As to this complaint and information of M^r Nicholas Badcock, had I, not been held in ignorance (by his means & the Surveyor) of their Instructions from the Com^{rs} of his Majestie's Customes, and of His Majestie's Order in Council already mentioned, I should never have writt so confidently to the Comm^{rs} as I did by my letter of the 7th of June last, as alsoe to the Earle of Anglesey in my letter to his Ldp of the same date, and therefore I presume to hope His Majesty will be graciously pleased to believe, that my transgression has been thro' ignorance, and for want of those directions, which I am now certaine