

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers.

Mr Blackston's Letter of Complaint
against Lord Baltimore's Officers.

May it please your Honors

I hope my letter of the 10th of November last sent via Virginia and my duplicate of the same in another ship is come safe to your hands since which I met with divers Testimonies and Experience of the truth of what Intelligence I therein gave to your Honors The most horrid murder of His Maj^{ty's} Collector here hath been and is daily seconded with very apparent tokens of approvement both from Talbot the bloody Malefactor and all his Adherents who are busy in extenuating his crime and have conspired and procured his Escape from Prison in Virginia and from thence transported him to Marry Land where he remains publickly known at his own House. There is little hopes of his being brought to Justice that he may receive condign Punishment there being a literal intercourse and correspondence between him and some principal Magistrates of this Province, and no effectual Course taken for apprehending him which I humbly conceive may be a strong Argument and signal token to your Honors of the ill and wicked carriage of things here and since Mr Rousby's murthur I have been continually discountenanced and obstructed in my proceedings in his Majesty's Service by the Chief persons left and deputed for the Government of this Province. They have contemned and disowned my Commission torn and burnt my Certificates to Masters of Ships & have diverted and dissuaded Masters of Ships from applying themselves any ways to me and so have entered clear and dispatcht Ships without my Notice or privity by which means I am certain several Transgressors have escaped and many frauds pass undetected My Lord Baltimore's Councill have also assumed a power to themselves to depute another to be Collector in several Rivers to levy and receive all His Majesties Rates, Duties and Impositions payable by the Act of 25th yeare of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord the King and for my disowning and not complying with those Appointed (and I hope your Honors will not blame me for saying spuriously impowered) Collectors and for my dissenting from their Proceedings I have been served with Warrants to appeare before some of them and then threatened me with bringing me to the Provincial Court and with infliction of several Punishments, Banishments and utter ruin of me and my Family. One of them especially by name Coll W^m Diggs domineers & tells me I shall not maintain my Commission here unless by great Guns as Captain Allin doth, whom he and the rest try to calumniate and ignominiously term him a pirate & endeavour to throw all such like base, scurilous aspersions against him me and both our Commissions, but notwithstanding