

all threatenings and difficulties I shall proceed to the best of my knowledge and Endeavours to execute the Duties of my Place and Commission especially in what I see may most conduce to His Majesty's Interest and service in the present circumstances and exigence of Affairs here, wherein I hope your Honor will approve and make it known that His Majesty's officer shall be owned and supported in that legal and indubitable authority derived from your Honors against all opposers and adversaries of his Majesty's Sovereignty which by those practices & present methods used is endeavoured to be excluded this Province as to which I humbly beg your Honors mediation for his Majesty's true information that a course may be taken to repel and remedy those growing and intolerable insolences and illegal doings under which His Majesty's officers heretofore have ever been sufferers and now after them I expect the same or as bad usage to complete the hard measure I met with already unless speedy care be had for prevention of the Dangers and mischiefs that certainly impend me in prosecution of His Majesty's Service in this Country. I am confident his Majesty is prejudiced several thousand Pounds by the obstruction and confusion that's caused in His Majesty's Affairs and concerns here and I doubt his Revenue from the duties of the penny per pound for Tobacco will prove but small this year by reason many Masters and Merchants bound for other of His Majesty's Plantacōns would have carried Tobacco but have been threatened by the aforesaid Coll. to seize their Ships and be sued if they paid any Duties but to themselves Whereupon they being discouraged & frightened have declined carrying any Tobacco. I know as yet but of two Entries made with me or my Deputies for Tobacco to pay the Duties in the whole Province and for those and what else comes in shall transmit Bill of Exchange payable according to the Directions formerly given by your Honors Instructions to M<sup>r</sup> Christopher Rousby which measures I humbly conceive is most proper form to take till further order. I hear some of the said Collectors have lately clandestinely cleared and received His Majesty's Duties of some Tobacco and as to that I shall make through Inspection and Endeavour your Honor's speedy Information Major Nicholas Sewall one of the aforesaid Council and Collectors at Puttuxan entered some Irish and some other Ships which upon my suspicion of their being Transgressors of the Laws of Trade I told him of the irregularity of such Proceedings in giving Entries & permits of Trade without the knowledge and assent of the Chief Officer of His Majesty's Customs for the time being and demanded the Cocq<sup>ts</sup> and certificates (if any) brought in by the Masters of those Ships but the said Sewall deferred delivery thereof and suspecting that either I or Cap-

P. R. O.  
Colonial  
Papers.