

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers.

ship having long since ordered that they should apply themselves to the King's Collector as well as to his own and such was the practise whilst M^r Christopher Rousby was living and the truth of this may be easily known from several Masters of Ships and others now in Town, after M^r Christopher Rousby was so unfortunately Killed by George Talbot the Deputies of Maryland did presume to appoint Coll. W^m Diggs and Major Nicholas Sewall (both of them persons of good repute and Estates) to officiate as Collectors for His Majesties Dues, until another person could be appointed by the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs, and this they thought their Duty to take care to doe, that His Majesties Officers might receive the less prejudice by that wicked Act of the said Talbot and his Lordship doubts not, but the said Persons so appointed will give a just account of their proceedings to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs.

His Lordship cannot believe that M^r Blackiston has been served (as he alledges in his said Letter) with any Warrant or has been threatened in that manner as he has writt and therefore humbly beggs that enquiry may be made of such Persons as are lately come from those parts of whom the truth of all this may be easily known, though it may very possibly be that he has been arrested at the suits of his many Creditors, it being known to many he is much in debt and has been so for many years.

Coll. W^m Diggs one of his Lordships Collectors is known by several Eminent merchants here to be a person of so much loyalty as that he would not be guilty of those foul things laid to his charge in the said Letter, and it were to be wished that M^r Blackiston had at all times expressed his loyalty to the King as amply as the said Diggs has always done both in Virginia and Maryland.

Tis not possible for any Person that understands the Trade of Maryland to believe his Majesty should be prejudiced several thousand Pounds, if his Lordships Officers should be as malicious and as wicked as the said Blackiston doth endeavour by his Letter to represent them for whilst M^r Chr: Rousby lived who understood the office well and knew as much as any Person how to make the most of it there never was much above one hundred pounds in One year received by him, for so he often declared to his Lordship, t'is strange therefore to his Lordship as also to all dealers and Traders thither that M^r Blackiston should find out that it is possible for his Lordships Officers by any obstruction which he says is given by them to prejudice his Majesty in so high a measure, were they so un-dutiful and impudent as to do it in any matter whatsoever.

But M^r Blackiston takes care to signify that he doubts he shall receive little Tobacco this year, and gives this as a reason