

that his Lordships Officers threaten the Masters of Vessels that in case they pay not the penny per pound duty to them, they shall be sued and their Vessels seized, and yet notwithstanding this complaint, His Lordship is ready to make it appear that the said Blackiston had received several thousand pounds of Tobacco, even afore he had writt that letter, and the same had paid away to his creditors, who never had any hopes of being satisfied by him until he had obtain^d His Majesty's Commission. This will be proved if required, so that M^r Blackiston had no other way this year to make up his accounts with the Commissioners of His Majestys Customs but by pretending great obstructions from his Lordships Officers.

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers.

What M^r Blackiston has mentioned concerning Major Sewall is as untrue as the rest of his Letter, for when the said Sewall had given him notice of several Irish Vessels he intended to seize the said Blackiston, neglected to assist him in it and so the said Sewall was forced to proceed without him and after that those Vessels were seized, the said Blackiston persuades Captain Allin to send Boats and men to secure them, who finding his Lordships Officers on board were disappointed which gave great trouble to them both and is the cause of his writing that he was prevented in the discharge of his office, some of the said Vessels were condemned at a special Court and the rest more likely to receive the same condemnation as his Lords^p has been informed and a faithful Account will be given suddenly by his Lords^{ps} Officers to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs and his Lordship is assured they will be also ready and able to clear themselves in all particulars when they shall know and understand what M^r Blackiston has charged them with, for his Lordship doth not doubt but it will in the end appear some prejudice and ill will the said Blackiston has been guilty of in his Office and of which his L^{ds} has given notice to the Commissioners of his Majesties Customs.

Therefore his Lordship humbly beggs that the said Blackiston may be required to prosecute his great Charge contained in his said Letter That in case Coll. Diggs and the rest of the Officers in Maryland be found guilty they may suffer, but if innocent as his Lordship hopes and believes they are, that then they may be cleared.

C. Baltemore.

The Lord Baltemore's Answer to
M^r Blackiston's Letter.

Presentment 29th of April 1685

The Comm^{rs} humbly mind his Lordshipp of the Papers remaining in the hands of M^r Guy (being presented to the late