

P. R. O.
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overtook us like a Storme and enforced us like distressed Mariners after wee had long striven against all oppositions here & beene at three hundred thousand pounds of Tobacco charge to provide for their and our happinesses to throw our dear bought commodities into the Sea, when wee were in sight of our harbour, & wth them to drown'd not only our present reliefes but all future hopes of being able, to doe ourselves good, whiles wee are thus divided & enforced to steere by anothers compasse whose needle is too often touched with particular intrest, this unlimited and (as it appears to us) Independent power and authority of the Lord Baltmore doth like an impetuous wind blow from us all those seasonable showers of yo^r Ma^{ties} Royall care & favours, & leaves us & his owne Province weithering & decaying in distresse and poverty To conclude this unseasonable & unfortunate prohibition of the cessacōn hath not only increased the discontent of many of the Inhabitants of his Province but hath raised the grief and anger of almost all yo^r Ma^{ties} subjects of this collony to such a hight as required great care to prevent those disturbances which were like to arise from their eluded hopes & vaine expenses, and this misfortune had the greater impression upon us being unexpected by us, because wee knew that the Lord Baltmore could not be ignorant of the expresse words of that yo^r Ma^{ties} Royall instruction viz^t 3^{ly} whereas wee have been moved to putt some restraint upon the planting of Tobacco in that our Colony both for advancing the other Comodities, wee have recommended to yo^u, & because the price thereof falls so low by the great quantities brought in from o^r other Plantaçōns, that the same in a short time will not be valuable to the Planters or Man^{ure} And whereas wee have been likewise moved to make some order for the Limitting the ships w^{ch} Trade thither, that they shall not lade & returne from thence but from & during some time limited, at all w^{ch} debates yo^u have been present, & in all w^{ch} our Privy Councill have forborne to give any Determinacōn by reason of the difference of opinions between the Man^{ure} & Planters and Masters of Shippes no one party of w^{ch} seemes to be of the same minde & opinion, Wee doe recommend the consideracōn & debate of the whole to yo^u and yo^r Assembly to the end that upon the due deliberacōn of what is best for that our Colony, (wee meane for the generall good & future advancement thereof & not the particular proffitt of a few lesse industrious persons) such good rules may be established as may bee for the Publique benefit. And because what shall be found necessary to be settled in these particulars, will require that the same provision be likewise made in Maryland. Wee doe direct yo^u that some Commiss^{rs} bee appointed to treat with others of Maryland to that purpose & a fitt place agree'd upon for the same. In order whereunto