

the month. With this answer they appeared to be pretty well satisfied at that time but they soon after renewed their Sollicitations, assuring me that more than 30 Vessels had been permitted to clear & sail from Virg<sup>a</sup> since the Beginning of that month. tho I could not question the Veracity of some of the Gent<sup>n</sup> that gave this Information yet as I had received no such Instructions from your Ldp I would take no Notice thereof till the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst. when one of them obtained & produced to me an Authenticated Copy of the order that had been sent to the Port Officers in Virginia by the Clerk of the Council which was dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of May & was contained in the following words "The Governor having thought proper by the Advice of the Council to discontinue the Embargo I hereby acquaint you that you are permitted to clear out any Vessel from your District after the Eighth of this Inst, upon taking Bond with security & a Certificate as usual." Upon my laying a Copy of this order together with Your Ldp's Letter & the Petitions of the Maryland merchants before the Council of this Province they advised me to allow the Naval Officers to clear out any Vessels that were loaded for Great Britain or Ireland upon the masters of them giving proper Security for performing such & no other Voyages. As I am persuaded that it is not Your Ldps Desire to distress the Trade of this Province more than that of Virginia (the Staple whereof is the same as ours) I flatter myself that you will not disapprove of the Steps that I have taken on this Occasion, nor beleive that any one can be more sollicitous to conduct himself agreeable to your Ldp's Instructions than My Ld. &c.

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Denny.]

4<sup>th</sup> June 1757.

Sir

An Opportunity of forwarding a Letter to Phila<sup>a</sup> Offering I embrace it to inform you that I have with the Advice of the Council of this province permitted the Port Officers to clear any Vessels that are loaded & bound to Great Britain or Ireland. Lest you should be surprized at my taking such a Step without the Earl of Loudoun's Approbation or Knowledge I must acquaint you that for more than a fortnight the Owners & masters of the Vessels that were almost loaded when the Embargo was laid have been presenting Memorials representing the Injustice of continuing the Embargo here when the Trade in Virg<sup>a</sup> had been a considerable time freed from all Restraint; tho I could not question the Veracity of some of the Persons that informed me of the Embargo's being discontinued in Virg<sup>a</sup> yet I refused to take any notice of the Repre-