

c. s. c.

[Colston to Chamberlaine.]

Sir.

Decem^r 30th 1776.

When I return'd home the other evening and found you had ben waiting some time to talk over this dark afare which I must confess has every apearance of rapin and voilance, but worthy sir, when you consider that this was intirely an act of neede and not choyce and that perhaps a man concearnd had a Gill of salt in his famaly for a fornite you'l in som measure excuse it for my own part I dont beleve a man on earth has a greater avertion to mobs or voilance then my self and a few months back thought nothing could have drove me into it and I verily beleve it to be the case with the whole and as to aplyng to you for the Salt I confess we ought but ware told by many individuals which you had refused to sell to that for seventeen persons to aply after this wold have pervented our geting any and that we could no longer do without, and that we pased M^r Hindman who thay say had a greater quantity and went to that place it being defenceless I did not know he had a bushel nor that any person on the Estern Shore had such a quantity as you had. Whowever if the money we left is not sattisfactory we think ourselves bound by everything to give you your price and will when required and hope when you consider colely on the matter you' not indeavour to drive us to any further acts of rashness and am sorry it fell on you who from my knowledge of your family I shall all ways treat with esteem and respect.

I am Sir your very hum^{ble} Serv^t

Jere Colston.

To The Honorble James Lloyd Chamberlaine

Brigd^r General Talbot County

Tho I am considered as a princable in the afare I declare myself not.

[Melward and Larey, Depositions.]

William Melward of Talbot County being duly sworn deposeth and saith that,

he went to live at Plain Dealing in the Spring of the year 1774 and his wife was employed to take charge of the house as housekeeper, at that time there was a quantity of salt in a house the key of which was delivered into his wife's care, he saw the salt himself and supposes it might be less than one hundred bushels and that the whole family were supplied with salt from that heap and he believes they consumed about twelve bushells p^r annum.

William Milward the deponent further saith that in January