

tinguishing such as have the Custom House Commissions, from the few which sailed before the Resolution on that Head was taken; And also a Copy of the Instructions given by the Lords of the Admiralty to the several Commanders of these Ships.

The Precautions, which, upon perusing the two last mentioned Papers, you will observe to have been taken here; & the strict Orders given on this Occasion to the Commanders of all the Ships of War in America; will sufficiently point out to you, how earnestly the King wishes, that all possible means should be used to root out so iniquitous a Practice; A Practice carried on in contravention of many express & repeated Laws, tending not only to the Diminution and Impoverishment of the Publick Revenue, at a time, when this Nation is labouring under a heavy Debt incurred by the last War for the Protection of America; but also to expose every fair Trader to certain Detriment, & even Danger of Ruin, by his not being able to carry his Commodities to Market, on an equal Footing with those who fraudulently evade the Payment of the just Dues and Customs for the same.

It is the Kings Pleasure, that you do, by the first Opportunity, acknowledge the Receipt of this Letter, & that you do, from time to time, transmit to me, for His Majesty's Information, exact Accounts of whatever shall happen, within your Government, in an Affair which the King considers to be of the highest Importance to the Commercial Interests of His Subjects, & the Improvement of the Publick Revenue; You will likewise impart to me, for the King's Approbation such further Hints, as may occur to you, as proper for the Subject.

I must also inform you, that His Majesty's Resolution, to have the most implicit Obedience paid to these His Commands, is so fixed; that as on the one Hand, your particular Diligence & Attention in the Performance of your Duty herein, will not fail to recommend you to His Majesty's Royal Favor; so, on the other, it is incumbent on me to acquaint you, that the King will not pass over unnoticed any Negligence or Relaxation on the part of any Persons employed in His Service, in a matter, on which His Majesty lays so much Stress & in which the fair Trade of all His Faithful Subjects is so essentially interested.

I am, with great Truth & Regard

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble Servant

Egremont

Dep^{ty} Gov^r of Maryland.