

Sugar Rum & Molasses on paying the Duties imposed on such Commodities by Act of Parliament Those Persons in the Northern Colonies who have been concerned in that Trade, tho they may be deterred by the Measure now fallen upon from importing Goods in an illegal manner from Europe will probably still endeavour to import the produce of foreign Sugar Colonies without paying the Duties, nor do I know how Evasions in such cases can be effectually prevented where the parties concerned disregard the Sanction of an Oath unless an Officer from the Station'd Ships was to go on board every Vessel so loaded & see her into port. As some of these Provinces especially This & Virginia abound with Navigable Rivers & Creeks so that Vessels may be easily unloaded at places far distant from the Residence of any Custom House Officer, It might I think be a means of securing His Majesty's Duties & preventing illicit Trade if no Vessel was to be admitted to an Entry untill she was come to an Anchor within a certain small Distance of the Custom House or Collectors Office, nor permitted to discharge any part of her Cargo at any place not within View of such Office. Should any thing else occur to me relative to this Subject I shall agreeable to Your Lordship's Directions do myself the honour to communicate my Sentiments thereon to Your Lordship & I beg Your Lordship to assure The King our most Gracious Sovereign that I shall on all Occasions pay the most implicit Obedience to the Orders I have now received from Your Lordship or may hereafter have the honour to receive from Yourself or any other of His Majesty's Ministers. I am—

[Sharpe to Amherst.]

To Sr Jeffery Amherst. Annapolis the 26<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> 1763.  
Sir

I trouble Your Excellency with this to inform You that as soon as I had an Opportunity of Communicating to the General Assembly of this Province the Contents of the Letter You were pleased to send me the 7<sup>th</sup> of last month I recommended it to them to prepare an Act for prohibiting for a time all commerce between the Inhabitants of this Province & the Western Indians, whereupon the Assembly have framed such an Act as will I apprehend effectually prevent such Commerce. I am &c.