

of Vessels in the Maryland Trade must it seems at particular Times empty the Jails & by that means it sometimes happens that they oblige the Masters of their Ships to receive on board twice the number they ought to bring, little anxious themselves of the Consequence to the Inhabitants here, nor very solicitous whether or no the Crowding too great a Number of the poor Wretches into a small Compass may not be the means of destroying some of them. When there are more Convicts to be sent out than their Ships bound hither will receive conveniently Let them assign the Surplus to some other Merchants who will be glad to take them off their hands or bring them hither for a reasonable Freight, & as only a moderate Number will then be transported hither in any one Ship very few will lose their Lives on the Passage & people here will not have such reason to dread their Arrival. The Contractors may indeed say that if it is notorious such destructive Distempers are frequently imported in Convict Ships why do people by purchasing encourage the Importation of them, to which it might be answered that there are in all Societies People that will run all Risks for the sake of making Profit, but it becomes the Legislature as far as can reasonably be done to prevent other Persons suffering by the Proceedings of People of such Dispositions: that the Assembly have by the Act in Question complimented the Governor with pretty extensive Power is indeed true but they thought it was necessary to lodge it somewhere & I flatter myself Experience will teach M<sup>r</sup> Ringgold that it is at present in hands that will never exercise it to distress Trade but only so far as the Welfare of the Province makes the Exercise of it expedient & absolutely necessary. That the Act is in some degree defective & rather too severe I will not deny but it may be amended & I will recommend it to the Assembly at the next Session to make it less exceptionable & particularly to appropriate a Sum of Money for building a Lazaretto. Finding they could not immediately succeed in their Application for a Dissent Mess<sup>rs</sup> Sedgley & Co in Bristol have I find furnished their Ship with a Ventilator which they may be ashamed of not having done long ago & Mess<sup>rs</sup> Stewart & Campbell have made theirs quite airy by opening a Range of Ports on each Side between Decks & by that means it seems the Ships were kept healthy tho in one of them were imported more than a hundred & fifty Persons besides the Crew. I observe what you write with respect to the Reverend M<sup>r</sup> Allen whom I have from his first Arrival here been studious to serve & oblige & am sorry it has not been in my power to provide for him agreeable to his Wishes; that he was not immediately inducted into a more Valuable Parish than this was entirely owing to Himself for I