

Lib. R. R. R. many frauds past undetected: My Lord Baltemores Council have also assumed a power to themselves to Depute another to be Collecto^r in Severall Rivers; to leavy and receive all his Maj^{ties} rates duties and Impositions payable by the act of the 25th yeare of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord the King, And for my disowneing and not complyeing with those appointed (and I hope your Hono^{rs} will not blame me for saying spurriously empowered) Collecto^{rs} and for my dissenting from their proceedings, I have been served with warrants to appeare before some of them, and then threatned me with bringing me to the Provinciaall Court, and with infliction of severall punishm^{ts} banishment, and utter ruine of me and my family, one of them especially by name Coll W^m Digges Domineeres and tells me I shall not maintaine my Comission here, unless by great gunns, as Cap^t Allen doth, whom he and the rest strive to calumniatè, and ignominiously tearme him a pyrate, and endeavour to throw all such like base scurrilous aspersions against him, me, and both our Commissions, but notwithstanding all threatnings and difficulties I shall proceed to the best of my knowledge and endeavo^{rs} to execute the Dutyes of my place and Comission, especially in what I see may most conduce to his Maj^{ties} Interest and service in the present Circumstances and Exigence of affaires here; wherein I hope your Hono^{rs} will approve me and make it knowne, that his Maj^{ties} Officer shall be owned and supported in that legall and indubitable authority derived from your Hono^{rs} against all opposers and adversaries of his Maj^{ties} Sovereignty, which by those practices and present methods vsed, is endeavoured to be excluded this Province; as to w^{ch} I humbly beg your Hono^{rs} mediation for his Maj^{ties} true informacōn that a course may be taken to repell and remedy those growing and intolerable insolencies, and illegall doeings under which his Maj^{ties} Officers heretofore have ever been sufferers, and now after them I expect the same, or as bad useage to compleate the hard measure I mett with already, unless speedy care be had for the prevention of the dangers and mischiefes that certainly impend me in prosecution of his Maj^{ties} Service in this Countrey, I am confident his Maj^{tie} is prejudiced severall thousand pounds by the obstruction and confusion that's caused in his Maj^{ties} affaires and concernes here, and I doubt his Revenue from the duties of the penny p pound for Tobacco, will prove but small this yeare by reason many M^rchants and Masters bound for others of his Maj^{ties} plantations would have carried Tobacco, but have been threatned by the aforesaid Collecto^{rs} to seize their ships and be sued, if they paid any Duties but to themselves, whereupon they being discouraged and frightened have declined carrying any Tobacco, I know as yett but of two Entries made