

Lib. H. D. & will be very chargable & detrimentall to the peoples Crops of Tobacco w^{ch} will much diminish his Ma^{ty} Revenues & lessen the Trade & Navigation of England which are Endeavoured to be promoted, (though but weakly) by

Yo^r humble Serv^t

Fr: Nicholson

Govern^r of New Yorke

Instructions for M^r Thomas Tasker one of the house of Burgesses and Treasurer for his Ma^{ty} Province of Maryland

Mr Taskers
publick In-
structions
Relating to
New Yorke
&ca

You are with all Expedition possible to go to New Yorke & when please God you shall come there you are to deliver my Lett^r to his Ex^{ncy} Coll Benjamin Fletcher his Ma^{ty} Cap^t Gen^{ll} & Govern^r in Chief of the Province of New York &ca And likewise to deliver unto him all the Bills raised upon the Addicōnall Duty of 3^d p hhd payable to you, provided he don't expect the men, w^{ch} Act was with much difficulty got to pass the house, And after it was passed, what murmuring it made amongst the Merchants & Masters of Ships, w^{ch} I feare may cause some of them to Leave off coming here, And if they must have men, (the very report whereof has already occasioned sev^rall Free-men to goe a way) it is to be feared when they come to be actually raised it will occasion severall more to desert the province and so lessen his Ma^{ty} revenue considerably by meanes of the less quantity of Tobacco w^{ch} will be made, for every mans labour pays to his Ma^{ty} 10^d sterl: a year or more. That the Lord Baltemore has aboue halfe the Revenue arising and becoming due wthin this Province.

And if the Men Rised should be Maintained by this Countrey, w^{ch} must be Leavyed by a yearly tax of so much p poll the same (together wth the Annuall Charge the Countrey is p. 193 already at) will amount to nigh a quarter part of the Estates of the severall Taxables within this Province; And this year is likely to prove a bad year for tobacco.

That I understand his Ma^{ty} is graciously pleased to keepe in pay four hundred Men for the defence of Albany.

That there is an Acco^t of Strange Indians in Virg^a w^{ch} have done some mischief there and how that Wee are frequently alarm'd with strang Indians likewise w^{ch} puts the inhabitants to charge and trouble to goe and looke after them & to secure their habitations.

That the last year by the Severity of the winter, most people have lost the better part of all their Stocks of Cattle & hogs That the Councill & house of Burgesses have humbly