Lib. H. D.   4^{thly} It is observed that by the whole scope of his petition he makes as if he were the only person Aim'd at to pay the said Duty, out of some prejudice conceived by the Governm^t of himself or his Imployers.

Lastly as to the late explanatory Act about the s^d Duty, it is Referred to Mr Attorney & Sollicito^r Gen^{ll} to Advize whether the Law can looke back to an Act done before, as also that they consider of the above Remarkes & petition & Return their Report to this Board accordingly.

p. 320   To his Ex^{ncy} the Govern^r & Councill &c^a

In Obedience to your Excell^s Commands herevnto Annext We humbly say—

1st Cap^t Cheshire being demanded by Us how he could make it appear that the Officer at Williamstadt informed him it was lawfull to transport &c^a He saith he can prove the same.

2^d He says he was willing to pay the Duty of Ten ₱ Cent had the same been demanded of him.

3^d He pretends not to make appear any other Goods Transported to Virginia, but in potomock River, from one side to the other.

4th Being by Us demanded what he meanes by these Words, he declares that if his Intentions are not so clearly Expressed as it should be, that he is extremely sorry for the same, for that he is so farr from conceiving any such thing, that he is sensible of many favours rec^d in this Concern, but that he is doubtfull his Employer should suspect & Accuse him for ill Managem^t &c^a And lastly as to the late Explanatory Act We conceive that in Reguard the Representative Body of this province has declared that it never was their intent the s^d Act should extend so farr as to Charge the Ten ₱ Cent on Goods carryed to Virginia & no farther, and that the Duty was to be Applyed to the vse of the Province, it remains with your Ex^{ncy} & Councill either to Require or Release &c^a All which is humbly submitted to yor Ex^{ncy} by

Yo^r Excell^s most obedient
Servants
George Plater
Wm Dent

By his Ex^{ncy} the Govr & Councill

May the 16th 1696.

The Report of Mr Attorney & Sollicito^r Gen^{ll} vpon the above Remarkes & Ord^r being Read; as to the first where the Pet^r