

Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1694-97. 567

To his Ex^{ncy} the Govern^r and Council &^{ca}

Lib. H. D.

Report upon
the late Act
of Parliamt
abt Trade
&^{ca}

In Obedience to your Ex^{ncys} Commands unto Us given Verbally We have Considered the late Act of Parliamt Entituled an Act for preventing ffrauds and Regulating Abuses in the plantation Trade, and so ffarr forth as the same relates to the plantation Trade, which is all We conceive yo^r Ex^{ncy} required of Us, We humbly Offer &^{ca} That by the s^d Act, all Govern^{rs} of his Ma^{ty} plantacōns are Obliged before the 25th day of March 1697, to take a Solemn Oath to doe their Utmost that all the Clauses, matters and things Contained in the fformer Acts of Trade relating to the s^d Colonies and Plantations, and that all and Every the Clauses contained in this p^{rs}ent Act be punctually and bona fide observed according to the true intent and meaning thereof, which Oath is to be taken before such person or persons as shall be appointed by the Kings Ma^{ty} &^{ca} Whitehall

That all Nav^l Officers in the Plantations within two months after Notice of this Act or as soon as Conveniently it may be are Obliged to give Security for their true and ffaithfull performance of their Duty and any that shall hereafter be Appointed are likewise Obliged within two months or as soon as Conveniently it may be to give the like Security as afores^d and till such time as such Security is given and the Officer appointed be approved on by the Com^{rs} of the Customs in England the Gov^r of the place who appoints them to be Answerable for their Offences, and these Security's are to be given to the Commission^{rs} of the Customs in Engl or to such as by them shall be appointed to his Ma^{ty} Vse. Whitehall

That by another Clause of the s^d Act all Lawes that Either are or shall be made repugnant or contrary to the s^d Act or the other Acts of Trade and Navigation therein in any of the Plantacōns &^{ca} are to be declared and Judged Void and Null.

That by another Clause of the s^d Act the Govrn^r or Officer appointed by the Commission^{rs} of the Customs are to inspect all Certificates of having given Bond in England &^{ca} And where they suspect any ffraud or decept in such Certificates they are Enabled to Require and take security in the Plantacōns &^{ca} for delivery of that Lading according to Law &^{ca} And where the Govern^r or Officer shall have Cause to suspect that the Certificate of having discharged the Plantacōn Lading in England is false or Counterfiet the Govern^r or Officer afores^d shall not Cancell such Bond till they are Inform'd from the Commission^{rs} of the Customs in England that the matter of the s^d Certificate is True &^{ca} Whitehall

By another Clause of the s^d Act it is declared that after p. 438