

Maryland Port of Annapolis Octobr 16th 1697. Lib. H. D.

S^r

I write to yo^r Ex^{ncy} of the 24th of June and inclosed is a Copy thereof. This is by the Hono^{ble} Thomas Tench Esq^r one of his Maj^{ties} Councill & Major Will^m Dent who are to wait upon your Ex^{ncy} from his Maj^{ties} Hono^{ble} Council here and Govern^r of Virgin^a

Your humble Servant
ffra: Nicholson.

Produced and read an Act appointing Rangers for the defence of this Province wherein is a clause empowering his Ex^{ncy} the Govern^r to leavy the Sum of Sixty thousand pounds of Tobacco upon occasion during the intervalls of Assembly &^{ca} His Ex^{ncy} proposes to the Gentlemen present whether or no they think it advisable that the said Sum should be leavyed this year, upon the ffoot the act directs; th^t if in case there should be occasion thereof before an Assembly it may lay ready for the said uses, and if no such occasion, that then it may lay in the Sherriffs hands for the assembly to dispose thereof at their meeting as they think fitt; especially considering this is likely to be a good & plentiful year for tobb^s and the leavy but small, being not above 43^{ls} of tobb^o p poll.

Whereupon after some consultation therein had it is unanimously agreed & thought convenient that the said Sume should be now leavyed by the Co^mittee for laying the Publick leavy for The end & purpose afores^d and is Ordered p. 572 accordingly.

Then produced an Act for raising a supply towards the defraying the publick charge of the Province.

His Ex^{ncy} is pleased to Say that he is very desirous & willing all Publick dues should be discharged this year; and that if the Co^mittee of acco^{ts} shall find it of absolute necessity that there be Tobb^o wanting for payment of any arrears, he will (upon their representation of the same to him) give his consent & Ord^r to the Treasurers (who are directed to receive the severall sumes of tobb^o from the Publick Officers) to lend so much Tobb^o as shall be recd towards defraying such arrears, signifying that he has already given Ord^s to the Sherriffs for collecting the s^d Publick tobacco where it will lay ready &^{ca} which his Ex^{ncy} hopes will discharge all matters and that if the same should not be wanting, that then it will lay ready against an Assembly for their disposall. Whereupon it is generally believed that it will be very necessary and convenient th^t the said Tobacco be raised in Order to the paying of Arrears and defraying such publick charges as the s^d Co^mittee shall find of absolute necessity to be now com-