

P. R. O. too, rather than stay; being apprehensive that they should not recover, if they stay in the Country. They are in hopes that being at Sea, & change of air recovers them; which I think it doth. For may be great fears & hopes operate very much upon such sort of people in point of health.

I hope yo^r Lordp^s will be pleased to send me his Matys Royal Letter dated the 22nd of April 97. requiring my punctual Care in all things relating to the execution of the Acts for the Plantacōn-trade: for there was no Duplicats of it with yo^r Lordp^s

According to yo^r Lordp^s Co^mands concerning his late Excellency Govern^r Copley's Estate's answering to his Majestys the 4th part of the 1^s p H^{dd} on Tobacco, which he ought to have employed in Stores of war; I have given orders to his Matys Attorney gen^l to revive the Prosecution at Law agst the s^d Govern^r Copley's Administrat.

N^o 4 is an abstract (taken out of the journals of the Council since my time) concerning Arms, Ammunicōn &c. which I found in this his Matys Province: as allso what I have sent for, & is come in upon the Acc^t of the 3^d p H^{dd} on Tobacco; & how the s^d Arms, Ammunicōn &c. are disposed of, The several Collect^{rs}, Naval Officers, and Receivers, were all sworn to their Acc^{ts} before me, and his Majestys honourable Council; that it might appear what was the full summe thereof; in order to have it appropriated for buying Arms, Ammunicōn &c. according to one of his Majestys Royal Instructions to me.

The first Account thereof, which is in folio 23, was sent by Captain Peter Paggan Mer^{cht} in London. And the last, w^{ch} is in folio 42, was sent by one M^r Isaac Milner by order of the said Paggan. And from folio 44, to the end, are Copys of Letters to the sd. Paggan and Milner, concerning what Arms, Ammunicōn &c. they are to buy and send in by the next shipping, w^{ch} it please God, shall come hither. And for fear there should be any want of them especially of the powder, I sent my own Bills for 250^{ll}, thō I had not rcd. above the half upon account of the sd. 3^d

In the sd. N^o 4 are orders of Council concerning the Militia, which I think dos not deserve that Name; for I find it morally impossible to have any tolerable one, as the Act is now. But I intend (God willing) to try the Assembly once more for a new Act.

The Reasons why I have not given particular Commissions, are because I can not find men enough, that are qualified for their Loyalty, Courage, and Diligence, to be made Officers. And those who are obliged by Law, to be either, Horse, Foot, or Dragoons, and to have Arms, Ammunicōn &c. of their own; can not amongst them all, fully equip a twentieth part. For