

have them punished according to law: and that they be obliged P. R. O. to take an oath to this effect, concerning Pyrats and Privateers, under the same penaltyes as the Acts of Parliament about illegal Trade &c. have provided: in case the Govern^r refused to take the oath; or break it afterwards. For it may so happen, that some Governours may get more by illegal Trade, Pyrats, and Privateers, than their Governments are worth: or, as the Common saying is, make their Fortunes at once; when they shall use such ways & means.

When our Assembly meets, I shall lay before them yo^r Lordp^s Letter of the 21st of March last, as also the Act for restraining and punishing Privateers and Pyrats in his Majestys Island of Jamaica. And according to his Majestys Royal Command Signified to me by yo^r Lordp^s I will use the utmost of my Endeavo^r with o^r Assembly, to pass such an Act here.

I am heartily sorry that yo^r Lordp^s have so just an occasion to write about the Laws of this his Majesty Province being in such Counfusion. But I doe assure your Lordp^s that I have several times proposed to the House of Delegates, that they would get some proper person or persons to revise their Laws, and draw them up better, both Stile, Form & Method: but this they would not doe, (for I suppose they had the Change of Government in their heads: and this would cost money, and they get none ofit) thô I am very sensible they are deficient in them all. They once appointed a Committee to doe something of this Nature in the Interval of Assembly: but never met: & if they had, I don't see that they could have done much: for we have not men qualified for such an undertaking.

But, according to yo^r Lordp^s Commands, I have imployed 3 of the best Clarks, and all I could get; and they are now Copying out, (upon that paper which yo^r Lordp^s were pleased to send) all the Laws w^{ch} were passed both in Govern^r Copleys, & in my time. And I hope to have the Body of Laws finished within a moneth; for I attend them daly. Then they shall (God willing) according to yo^r Lordp^s directions, be sent to you. And I have also for these two last fears, refused to revive their temporary Laws that were enacted before.

But with humble Submission to yo^r Lordp^s at first I found it absolutely necessary for his Majestys Service, to revive some of them. So I hope yo^r Lordp^s will be pleased to pardon me, and what I have done herein, should not at p^rsent be agreeable to yo^r Lordp^s Comānds. And what others yo^r Lordp^s may be pleas'd to send, shall be punctually obeyed by me.

I send to yo^r Lordp^s by Sir Tho: Lawrence the original Lists of Taxables, with a distinction of Freemen, Servants, Negroes,