

P. R. O. Inhabitants there) as he did other places, thô our Fleet was Maryland, 9. in the Countrey.

The Bay being wide and the Men of War but just arrived, and he going away in the night, was the Cause that his Majesty's Frigats did not come up with them. With humble Submission I think that except there be some Navall Force to secure this whole Bay, it is morally impossible to doe it, for every River and Creek are Harbours, and most people have landing places at their plantations. To make teneble Forts would cost a great deal of money: for I reckon that one good one would not be built under 4000^{li} sterling, and that could but secure one River if it did that: And to keep it in reparaire wou'd be more chargeable than in England, for all Buildings decay sooner here, And for his Majesty or the Countrey to be at any Charge in making of wooden Platforms or Batterys (as they here call them) or Stone ones either, I think it so much money thrown away, for I have seen some of these sort of Foolish fortifications spoiled before even they were finished. To have Forts of such Fortifications may be of dangerous consequence, by encouraging not only an Enemy who may so easily seize them, but also a Rebellion when they may be Masters of them with so little hazard. And Forts and Fortifications will very little or not all hinder the illegal traders: but a small Navall Force, especially if a Fireship be one, or at least Materials for making Brigantines or Sloops, fire Vessells, will I think hinder them, keep the Country in awe, and protect them from Privateers or Pirats. I have endeavoured (according to my duty) to hinder illegal trade, in doing of which, I have mett with very great difficultyes, especially in the Courts and Assembly. And in N^o 4 is a Copy of an Adresse to his Majesty about the Navigation Bonds &c, as also a paper from the Committee of Grievances with two others.

The security that they complaine of is because I have ordered the Collectors and Naval Officers not to take such poor and common Securities as was formerly used; and the oath is that the Masters and others who take an account of Ships loading, give an account upon Oath of the Number of Hogsheads, and great quantity of bulked Tobacco, paying no duty for them, which I think is a fair step for their running Tobacco, when in England. A great means to prevent illegal Traders, and securing his Majesty's Customs; would be, that a few certaine places were appointed for all Ships and Vessels to load and unloade at: And when I had the honour to serve his Majesty as Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, I endeavoured to bring them to it by degrees, as by making a Law for Ports-People in these parts having been used to live so separately, it's a very difficult thing to bring them at once to cohabit,