

P. R. O. lords, and not Tenants. If I am not very much mistaken, there is very little Land to be taken up either in Virginia or Maryland, except it be severall miles beyond any of the Inhabitants. And those distant and stragling Plantations, wherein there is often not above one or two men, which is sometimes the cause of murders or plunderings by the Indians while they are hunting, or in their going from or returning to their severall Nations.

N<sup>o</sup> 5 is a list of Navigation Bonds &c being 28, for which Iudgments are obtained.

N<sup>o</sup> 6 is a List and an additional one of Navigation bonds for which no certificates are produced, being 115. And in the said N<sup>o</sup> 6 is a List of Navigation Bonds being 19, for which no Certificates produced, and on which Declarations are drawn, and there is also in N<sup>o</sup> 6 a List of Navigation Bonds being 6, principals, noe securities to be found.

N<sup>o</sup> 7 is a List of Bonds being 60 taken in Maryland, for which legal Certificates have been produced.

I humbly transmit these Lists to Your Lordships and hope that your Lordships will be pleased by the next Fleet if not sooner to send orders what shall be done with those Bonds upon which Iudgment is already and may be obtained; for I have ordered his Majesty's Lawyers to prosecute those that can give no good reason for the suspension of their prosecution, but I presumed with the advice of his Majesty's Honourable Council, and at the most earnest request of the House of Burgesses, and severall of the principall Inhabitants of this his Majesty's Province to suspend the execution of the forfeited Bonds until his Majesty's Royall pleasure was known therein. If the Iudgm<sup>ts</sup> had been executed I do not know whether his Majesty would have gotten 500<sup>l</sup> by them. And the officers must have been forced to have executed them with Rigour. And I did not know what evill effect it might have had. If his Majesty be graciously pleased to grant the humble petition of the Burgesses (and what they suggest therein I must needs own to be true) yet I most humbly propose that some of them may be made examples, especially some of those who have been illegal Traders within these 2 or 3 years. Presently after my arrival I gave publick notice of my designe to prosecute illegal Traders, and had it recorded in the first Provinciall Court; so that they cannot pretend not to have been cautioned to leave their old Custome of illegal Trade, and becoming Suretyes in Navigation Bonds.

But I have observed that in these parts the People begin to pretend Custome, and claime it as their Common Law, which if not timely prevented I humbly conceive may be a disservice, and prejudicial to his Majesty's Interest. For if they be