

Lib. X. Read the humble Petition of Iames Brains Commander of the Ship Iames & Benjamin of Lond^o viz^t

October } To his Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq^r Cap^t
 22^d 1698 } General & Governor in chief in & over his Maj^{stys}
 Province & Territory of Maryland

The humble Petition of Iames Brains Commander of the Ship Iames & Benjamin & now riding in South River

Sheweth

That your Petitioner was never so surprized as at the hearing of the Depositions this day read to him before your Excellency in as much as thereby he is accused of such things as never entred into his thoughts to utter against your Excellency or the Government & if he should utter any such speeches must declare himself thereby to the whole Province (which daily receive the happy Effects of the Iustice moderation and every way advantageous influence of your Excellencys Gov^t) to be an ill man & render himself odious among those of his own
 p. 172 Calling who in a peculiar manner must needs own their happiness in having a person of your Excellencys extraordinary Conduct in the furtherance of trade & Cherishing to your great cost & Expençe those concerned therein to rule over them in this Province

But the more Grievous to your Excellencys Petitioner is the said accusation because he has often recd amongst great many undeserved Marks of your Excellencys Goodness in such a Degree that he must needs be lookt upon the most ungrateful of men should any thing come from him that may in the least tend to caluminate your Excellency

Therefore he humbly prays that according to your Excellencys wonted Clemency & your peculiar desire of promoting the Interest of all fair Traders into your Gov^t that your Excellency would be pleased to remit the Prosecution with the Guilt of those things your Petitioner is accused withal Iustly deserves, that the employ he is Concerned in may not Suffer having only this to say for himself that if he should speak such words (which he never remembers to have done) they were such as he had no ground to say & in themselves utterly false & further that he shall with all industry endeavour to manifest himself as he really is a well wisher to your Exc^{l^{cy}} and the Gov^t & abhorror of such persons as should have any inclination to the contrary

In humble hopes of your Excellencys forgiveness your Petitioner can do no more then pray &c^a

Iames Brain