

Lib. X. as think fit to purchase, are obliged to take them on Board again after they are disposed of For Instance your Petitioners having on the 19th of this Instant December disposed of two of them (to say) a Man and a Woman named Joseph Ashbee and Mary Mounteer to certain House keepers of said City and sending them to their Masters Houses were taken into Custody by Sheriff of said City and Carried before their Court in Order for Commitment without any Offence by them Committed here but meerly for being under the denomination of Convicts unless they themselves or some others for them would become bound in the Penal Sum of Fifteen Pounds Current Money for their good behaviour your Petitioners humbly Conceive by the aforesaid Act it is not any Part of the Contractors duty to enter into Bonds and recognizances for the Convicts Good Behaviour in any part of his Majestys Colonies in America that the Contractors did [n]ever expect to meet with any such Inconveniencies your Petitioners are further very much hindered by being publickly threatned by a Certain Magistrate in this City that if one of your Petitioners should Land a number of them on Shore in Town that he the said Magistrate would send both the Convicts and your Petitioners to Prison how far the said Law made by the said Corporation is Agreeable to the Statute of England aforesaid we humbly pray your Honours Consideration and how

p. 120 far it is consistent with the Lords Justices Dissent to a Law of like Nature in Virginia and also the Lord Baltimores dissent to the late Act of Assembly against their Importation here Now this is what your Petitioners humbly pray leave to lay before your Honours for your Consideration for without your Honours Relief we have only to Offer the late Law of said Corporation to Excuse us to our Imployer for not making such Returns as some of us heretofore in Virginia and other places have done we have only further to subscribe our selves with all due Regard Your Honours most Obliging most humble Servants

John Moale  
Dan<sup>l</sup> Russel

To which Petition the said Corporation being called before us appear here at this honble Board and beg Leave to Answer the said Petition which Answer followeth in these words

To his Honour the Governour and his Lordships Honourable Council

May it please your Honours

On Perusal of the Representation of Mess<sup>rs</sup> John Moale and Daniel Russel to your Honours we find they alledge