

Lib. X. Resolved that the Assembly be convened (according to the prayers of the said petition) on the second tuesday in July next to which time the same stands prorogued and that Letters be dispatched by the Clerk of this Board to the Several Sheriffs of this province Commanding them to Give their respective members of each County Notice thereof

Ordered that a Letter be sent from this Board to the Assembly of Virginia now sitting relating to the Tobacco Law and that the Expence thereof be defrayed by the publick which Letter was accordingly sent by Samuel Harvey of Annapolis and is as follows viz<sup>t</sup>

Gentlemen

The melancholy Circumstances of the Tobacco Trade the Staple of your Colony as well as of the province of Maryland is now reduc'd unto calls loudly upon the Legislature of both places for some speedy relief and as we have been already made sensible that the single endeavours of one plantation have come short of those advantages which might reasonably have been expected from a Law to prevent the making of Great Quantities of Trashy and Scentless Tobacco, in Case the other Tobacco plantation had also Given into the same Measures or fallen upon regulations something like thereunto

We therefore the Governor and Council of the province of Maryland have therefore thought it expedient upon the present Conjuncture of a Sessions of Assembly now sitting (as it is said) in Virginia to Advertize of a General disposition in the Inhabitants of this province towards the making of a Tobacco Law with such regulations therein as may release the trade from that Oppressive Burthen which it now Labours under of mean Trashy Tobacco

But forasmuch as it is apprehended that Laws made for the Reforming the Culture and Management of the Staple of Tobacco (the different Circumstances of the places Considered) would be most Conducive to the publick good the only thing which we have now in view when near as may be alike and with the same restrictions and regulations therein it would be very pleasing therefore if we might have a Scetch of your proceedings in Virginia with relation to the Tobacco Law which is said to be under the Consideration of the Legislature in the present Sessions of Assembly for altho our Zeal for the Improvement of the Tobacco Trade hath always been equal to that of our Neighbours yet the different notions and Conceptions which men often times Conceive of the same end which they are equally Zealous in the pursuit of have hitherto Obstructed all our endeavours that way until now that the Exigencys of our trade and the necessitys of our people have