

B. M. which is the softest term I can find, to engage thy patience
Vol. 25. to read and weigh this complaint of mine agst thee to thyself.

When Thou left'st England, I well remember, thou wert pleased to desire to see me, and at that time offer'd me friendly Offices. I took it as became me, very civilly and kindly. After th^t I feared no night stabs, or secret Designs against me and my Interest, for I cant help believing any gentleman, when he gives me so much ground for it.

It is true, Thou hast shewed Col. Markham an exterior respect for some time, but th^t makes him take this late Turn of Treatment so much the harder. For if he were as culpable as he represented, methinks he might first have been advised of such irregularitys, and if not speedily mended, thou must complain at home. But, instead of this method, to carry smoothly there, & at the same time to encourage Edrd Randolph to impeach him and the province here, two years sucessively, and thⁿ first invade the Province by force, drums beating and colours flying, & afterwards write against us; and all this immediately after an appearance of a good Understanding, seems to me not very prudent, and, to be sure, very unneighborly.

A letter of complaint to Mark. with a warning, in case he were not more careful, to complain at home, with an order to the Messenger to take his receipt for the letter, would have more effectually touched him, and have obliged his care, or exposed him much more to censure upon neglect.

But this is not all. Govern^r Nicholson, when in my province, upon his return home, if not as he came, made it his business to spy holes in our Coat, and glean up our weaknesses (if any were) by asking and pumping at private houses how they were governed, what Trade, what ships frequented them, if they were injur'd or oppress'd in any respect, as I am assured from th^m, which has not a good Face with it, in my opinion, nor can it tend to peace among the King's subjects & Colonys.

But yet a more disingenuous thing I complain of, to wit, holding a Correspondence with people in my Province, in order to expose the Government at home, which must end in the disgrace of it, if not in mine, and my suffering Family's Ruine.

This is what I believe Col. Nicholson would think very ill in me; if I should, or could, provoke any of our Friends in Maryland, or any else to serve thee so, thou wouldst punish it severely.

I know th^t C^pt Snead, G^r Jones (lately of M. land) & one Moor, &c, have been thy correspondents, at least are of a Cabal to blow us up. And for th^m to doe this, and never send