

L. H. J. general Advantage which Shipping ought to be to the Nation.
 Lib. 41. Hence we presume it comes to pass that they have made this
 Scruple about the Size of the Hogsheads of this Province ex-
 ceeding that of Virginia. We have enquired into their Gauge
 and find ours now used exceed but two Inches in Diameter of
 the Head being equal in Length and for justifying our Size
 we humbly offer this Reason to your Majesty: That the
 Tobacco generally made in Virginia is a more substantial
 thick waxy Leaf and by Consequence weighs heavier and
 contains greater number of Pounds in one Hogshead of their
 Size and their Tobacco than in one of our Size filled with our
 Tobacco which is more light and chaffy insomuch that they
 (as we compute) ordinarily get three thousand two hundred
 Pounds of Tobacco carryed home as cheap as we get two
 thousand two hundred which only Reason being taken into
 your Majesty's Royal Consideration we hope will induce your
 Majesty to suffer us to hold the same Gauge which is so trivial
 a Damage to the Storage of Ships that we wonder any should
 trouble your Majesty with it: But if any hereafter (through
 Greediness) make their Hogsheads above the Gauge we are
 willing either to subject them to greater Penalties or the Com-
 manders of Ships may make them pay an higher Freight
 proportionable or refuse to take or agree for the Freight of
 them.

Now Dread Sovereign having as we think truly stated the
 Case of this Province your Majesty will discern who bears the
 Burthen and consider we cannot but justly complain when we
 see our Hhds cropp'd and defaced and the Tobacco by great
 Parcels taken out of the Cask which should defend it and
 thrown into Holes and Corners and most abominably abused
 in Quality so liable to Plunder and Pillage and other Damages
 too many to particularize to your Majesty whereby it comes to
 pass to our too certain Experience that our Tobacco comes
 very light home and being consigned to the Owners of the
 Ships by the Artifice aforesaid, by whom such Damage ought
 to be repaired, and the Owner himself the Agent that should
 demand it, we go altogether without Redress being so far
 from the Spot and Scene where such Abuses are acted. This
 puts us upon making the Law against cropping, which yet
 proves but of small Effect to restrain it but hope we have
 hereby shewn Reason to incline your Majesty now only to
 favour this Bill but any other that may be devised to secure
 our Goods from such Rapine and Plunder, and in a special
 Manner to extend your Royal Favour to support us; which
 Favour we stand in need of above all your Subjects because
 we think we are the most imposed upon by the Owners and
 Hirers of Ships and the least able to help ourselves. And we