

Lib. J. R. & U. S. Ridout Esq<sup>r</sup> a Member of the Council and the Upper House of Assembly, and that he Attends in order to be qualified who takes the several Oaths to the Government subscribes the Abjuration and Test and takes the Oath of a Councillor who thereupon takes his Place at the Board Accordingly.

p. 256 Read the Right Honble M<sup>r</sup> Secretary Pitts Letter to the Governor

Whitehall 23<sup>d</sup> August 1760.

Sir

The Commanders of his Majesty's Forces and Fleets in North America, & in the West Indies, having transmitted repeated & certain Intelligence of an illegal & most pernicious Trade carried on by the Kings Subjects in North America and the West Indies as well to the French Islands, as to the French Settlements on the Continent of America and particularly to the Rivers Mobile & Mississippi by which the Enemy is, to the Reproach & Detriment of Government supplied with Provisions & other necessaries whereby they are principally if not alone enabled to sustain and protract this Long and expensive [war], And it further appearing that large Sums in Bullion are also sent by the Kings Subjects to the above Places in return whereof Commodities are taken which interfere with the produce of the British Colonies themselves in open Contempt of the Authority of the Mother Country as well as to the most manifest Prejudice of the Manufactures & Trade of Great Britain: In order therefore to put the most speedy and effectual stop to such flagitious Practices so utterly subversive of all Law and so highly repugnant to the Honour and well being of this Kingdom It is his Majestys express Will and Pleasure that you do forthwith make the strictest and most diligent Enquiry into the State of this dangerous and ignominious Trade, and you do use every Means in your Power to detect & discover Persons concerned either as Principals or accessaries therein and that you do take every step Authorized by Law to bring all such heinous Offenders to the most exemplary and Condign Punishment and you will as soon as may be and from Time to Time transmit to me for the Kings Information full and particular Accounts of the progress you shall have made in the Execution of these his Majestys Commands to which the King expects that you do pay the most exact obedience And you are further to use your utmost endeavours to trace out and investigate the various Artifices and evasions by which the Dealers in this iniquitous Inter-course find means to Cover their Criminal proceedings & to elude the Law, in order that from such lights, due and