

timely consideration may be had, what further provisions shall be necessary to restrain an Evil of such extensive & pernicious consequences. I am

Lib. J. R.
& U. S.

Sir

Your most Obedient humble Serv^t

To the Governor of Maryland.

W Pitt

Advised that the following Letter be sent to the several Officers of his Majestys Customs within this Province

Sir

His Majestys Ministers having received repeated & certain intelligence of an illegal Trade being carried on by many of the Kings Subjects in North America & the West Indies as well to the French Islands as to the French Settlements on this Continent particularly to the Rivers Mobile and Mississipi by which it is said that the Enemy is supplied with Provisions and other necessaries & thereby principally if not alone enabled to sustain and protract this long and expensive War, and it having been likewise represented that large Sums in Bullion are also sent by the Kings Subjects to the abovementioned Places in return for which Commodities are taken which interfere with the Produce of the British Colonies themselves; The Right honourable William Pitt Esq^r one of his Majestys principal Secretaries of State hath thereupon by a Letter Dated the 23 of August last signified it to me to be his Majestys express will and Pleasure that I should forthwith make the most strict & diligent Enquiry into the state of the abovementioned dangerous and ignominious Trade, use every means in my power to detect and discover Persons concerned either as Principals or Accessories therein and also take every step Authorized by Law to bring all such heinous offenders to the most exemplary and Condign Punishment. In order therefore that his Majestys will and Pleasure may be most punctually obeyed within this Province I have thought fit to communicate to you the Contents of the Secretary of States Letter to which it is expected you will pay due regard so that no such Trade with the Enemy may be carried on by any of the Inhabitants of this Province or if you know any Person that have been already concerned in carrying on such a Trade from Maryland I desire you will inform me and altho no Trade with the Enemy should have been carried on from this Province (which I hope is the Case) yet I desire you will by making enquiry concerning the manner of carrying on this pernicious Trade of the Masters of such Vessels as may come from either the West Indies or the Northern Colonies to

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