

nary labour upon the account (as they then alleaged) that if they had not flesh they would not worke. Yo^r supplyants answere then was to them, th^t if they would not goe to worke, unlesse they had flesh, I could not helpe it, for I had not flesh then to giue them (yo^r Supplyants busines calling him that day abroad) And att night returning home, fownd th^t his s^d seru^{ts} had not beene att worke, uppon th^t acc^t of not hauing that day some meate Allthough untill th^t time they haue not wanted for th^e most part since the Crop of Tob was in, to haue meate three times in th^e weeke & att least twice: They hauing other prouision by them att all times to dresse & eate when they will. And they continuing still in th^t obstinate rebellious condi^{ti}on allthough I haue instead of flesh for the p^rsent prouided sugar, fish, oyle & uinegar for them, am constrayned to addresse my selfe to this Court, That according to equity & their demeritts they may receaue such Censure as shall bee iudged equall for such peruerse seruants; Least a worse euill by their example should ensue by encowraging other seruants to doe the like. And though by th^e sheriffe they were summoned to this Court uppon th^e 6th day last, yett since I haue profered them, if yett they will bee contented wth such as I can possibly prouide for them, there should bee noe further proceeding publicly in th^e thing. Moreou^r I did offer them to giue them a note from under my hand for three of fflowre of them to take my Boate & to spend a weekes time or more, to see, if they could buy any prouision of flesh or any thing else, & I would pay for it, though neuer soe deare bought. Yett notwthstanding they still continew in their obstinate Condi^{ti}on & would come to the Court, allthough I haue sundry times told them, th^t I was loath to bring them or my selfe to appeare publicly in the thing.

Rich: Preston.

To the hon^{ble} th^e Gouverno^r & Councill

The humble Petⁿ of John Smith, Richard Gibbs, Samuel Coplen, Samuel Styles &c: Seruents to M^r Rich: Preston Senio^r Sheweth

That M^r Preston doth not allow yo^r Pet^{rs} sufficient Prouisions for th^e inablem^t to our worke, but streightens us soe far that wee are brought soe weake, wee are not able to performe th^e employm^{ts} hee putts us uppon. Wee desyre but soe much as is sufficient, but hee will allow us nothing but Beanes & Bread. These premises seriously considered yo^r Pet^{rs} humbly addresse themselues unto yo^r hono^{rs} to releiue our wants, & prouide th^t Our Master may afford us such sustentance as may enable us to goe through wth our labo^{rs} for th^e future, & yo^r Pet^{rs} shall as in duty bownd Euer pray &c: [p. 10]

Vppon these Pet^{ns} of M^r Richard Preston & his seruants, & uppon Examina^on of the s^d seruants p^rsent in Court: The Court taking th^e same into serious Considera^on, Ordered th^t these seruants now Petitioning (Viz) John Smith, Richard Gibbs, Samuel Coeplen,