

MSS. transported—and which Expence so far as relates to London Middle-
 Calvert sex and the Home Circuit (from which places the Transports are
 Papers very numerous) His Majesty has been Graciously pleased to take
 No. 583 upon himself and to pay out of his own Purse.
 Md.Hist.Soc.

Quære. Have the Assembly of that or any other Colony Authority to pass a Law laying a Tax of 20.^s p Head either on the Importer or the Buyer which is the same thing? And if they have not cannot the Contractor's Agent demand the Certificate prescribed by the Statute of the Convicts being landed there, without Payment of such Tax?

I am of Opinion that no Colony can make such a Law because it seems to me in direct Opposition to the Authority of the Parliament of Great Britain But the Charter of Maryland and the Power thereby given to make Laws is not stated. There always is a Restriction that they shall not be contrary to the Laws of England. But this Matter should be set right by a proper Complaint of the Law itself, and M.^r Sharpe should be acquainted with it, in order to his taking the proper Steps to have the Law repealed or declared null. For it is a Matter of Publick Concern, and derogatory to the Crown and Legislature of Great Britain. By the same Reason they might lay a Duty upon or even prohibit British Goods.

W. Murray

6.th May 1755.

Accordingly Your Memorialist having caused a Copy of this Case and Opinion to be delivered to M.^r Sharpe, he promised his Solicitor to make the necessary Representations to Your Lordship for his Redress.

Notwithstanding which Your Memorialist in 1756 received Advice from Maryland that on the 17.th November 1755 Twenty Shillings p Head for Ninety Nine Convicts landed there had been demanded, insisted upon and received of his Agents (under the Authority of that Law) by M.^r William Lux for the Collector and Naval Officer there, whereupon his Solicitor again renewed his Application to M.^r Sharpe who not only gave his repeated Assurances that his Grievances should be redressed, but declared that the Attorney General had himself been pleased to enforce his Opinion with his Recommendations; but M.^r Sharpe's ill State of Health disappointed Your Memorialist of the promised Redress.

After his Death [sic] Your Memorialist applied to Your Lordship's Secretary M.^r Calvert, but as yet having obtained no Relief he now presumes to lay his Case before Your Lordship, not doubting but Your Lordship will immediately give the necessary Orders not only for the Reimbursing Your Memorialist such Monies as have hitherto been exacted from him in Opposition to the Laws of Great Britain