

Read the Right Honorable William Pitt's Letter to the Governor.

Sir

Whitehall 23^d August 1760.

The Commanders of his Majesty's Forces established in North America & in the West Indies, having transmitted repeated & certain Intelligence of an illegal 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 Prejudice & Detriment of Government supplied with Provisions of other necessaries whereby they are principally if not alone enabled to sustain and protract this long and expensive War, and it further appearing that larger 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 Majesty's express Will and Pleasure that you do forthwith make the strictest and most diligent Enquiry into the State of this dangerous and pernicious Trade, and you do use every Means in your Power to detect & discover Persons concerned either as Principals or Accessories 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 Majesty's Commands to which the King respects 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 Devices by which the Dealers in this iniquitous Intercourse find means to cover their Criminal Proceedings & to elude the Law, in order that from such Lights, due and timely Consideration may be had, what further Provisions shall be necessary to restrain an Evil of such extensive & pernicious Consequences. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient humble Servant
W. Pitt

To the Governor of Maryland.

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

Sir

His Majesty's 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 Mississippi 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 reported that larger Sums in Bullion are also sent by the Kings Subjects to the above mentioned Places in return for which Commodities are taken which interfere with the Produce of the British Colonies themselves; The Right honorable William Pitt Esq^r one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State hath therefore by a Letter Dated the 23^d of August last signified it to me to be his Majesty's express Will and Pleasure that I should forthwith make the most strict & diligent Enquiry into the State of