

Sir,

Whitehall 11th October 1763

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having represented to His Majesty, that they find, upon a consideration of the present state of the Duties of Customs imposed on His Majesty's Subjects in America, that the Revenue arising therefrom is very small and inconsiderable, having in no degree increased with the Commerce of those Countries, and is not yet sufficient to defray a fourth part of the expence necessary for collecting it, and that through neglect, connivance and fraud, not only the Revenue is impaired, but the Commerce of the Colonies is diverted from its natural course, and the Salutary provisions of many wise Laws are in great measure defeated; His Majesty has commanded us to require and enjoin you in the strictest manner to make the suppression of the clandestine and prohibited Trade with foreign nations and the improvement of the Revenue, the constant and immediate objects of your care, and by a vigorous discharge of the duty required of you by several Acts of Parliament and a due exertion of your legal Authority, to give the Officers of the Revenue all possible protection and support, and that you do from time to time transmit such Observations as occur to you on the State of the illicit and contraband Trade, and on the conduct of all Persons, whose duty it is to prevent the same, in order that the necessary directions may be given for punishing such persons as shall appear to be guilty of any misbehaviour and for correcting all Abuses for the future —

We do therefore recommend these His Majesty's Commands to your most serious attention, not doubting but you will acquit yourself in the execution of them, as becomes a faithful and vigilant Servant of the Crown

Horatio Sharpe Esq. Lieut.
Governor of Maryland

Wear Sir, your most Obedient humble Servants

Hillsborough, Isaac Snyms, G. Bacon, John Yoeke

At a Council held at the Governours on the Day
of December in the thirteenth year of his Lordships
Dominion Annoq. Domini 1763.

Present.

His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq. Governour

The honorable Benjamin Tasker Stephen Cordley Daniel Dulany and John Ridout Esq.

The Report of the Conviction of Nigro Hannah Slave of M. Charles Clogget of
Talbot County condemned for feloniously breaking open the House of a certain Williams
Hillhouse of the same County and stealing therefrom several Goods and Chattles the
Property of the said Hillhouse Mary Parram at November Court 1763 being laid