

the Virginia Vessels which may be employed in this Trade
from the Payment of Duties here is contrary to the true Interest
of Maryland they ought on no Accot. to be accused. As to the
Circumstances that the Petitioners mention to raise Compassion
they ought not in my Opinion to be regarded; Compassion has
Nothing to do in Matters of Trade between two Independant
States, here Interest alone is the ruling Principle & in this par-
ticular Case what is it to us whether the Petitioners have been at
a great or a small Expence in setting up their works, or how fatal
the Continuance of the Tonnage Duty on their Ore Vessels might
be to them. Whether their Furnaces have been erected upon a
supposed Stock of Ore in Virginia which has since failed or in
Confidence of being supplied with our Ore Duty free is to us a
matter of Indifference, if they proceeded to build on the first
Supposition they deserve no Indulgence for their Negligence in not
being well assured of their Stock of Ore before they built, & if
they went on the Latter they deserve as little for their Presumption
in imagining that this or any other Province would willingly or
could be compelled to forego it's just Advantages to prevent
Losses to Persons acting upon such Principles. The Petitioners then
go on & say that for every Ton of Ore they pay twenty pence they
at the Bank & intimate that as this is so much clear Gain to
the Province it is our Interest to encourage the Trade by forbear-
ing to levy the Tonnage Duty on the Vessels that They shall
employ.