

whether the Maryland Souldiers that are engaged in that Service are
excused, paying any Duty there is Nothing to the Sd Baltimore
or his Govern^r: but to pass over that; & to consider what they alledge
as an Indulgence to this Province, What do these Gentlemen ask in
Return for the favour; - No less than this, that since they do not
charge Us for our manufactured Goods which they cannot do
without & which would cost them more in proportion to the Imposition
that should be laid thereon we will not charge them for our
unmanufactured Goods which they want to manufacture to our
Prejudice. The Reason why we send our Pig Iron to Virg^a for
Exportation to Great Britain, is that we have not Shipping enough
amongst ourselves to take it away & if the Petitioners & other Ad-
venturers in Virg^a should by our Indulgence be enabled to supply
the Virg^a Ships with as much Pig Iron as they may want for
Ballast what Channel shall we find to convey all ours home, as
present we can freight it by the way of Virg^a almost as cheap
as from this Province but if the Petitioners were to succeed we
should soon find the Case altered. With respect to what they
advocate about the Virginians purchasing their Bar Iron at this
time from Maryland I shall only say that from their doings so
Maryland receives great Advantage, the greater their Demands
the greater will be our Gain, but the more they are enabled to make
themselves the less shall we sell them. It is therefore our Interest
to discourage their present Manufactory rather than to increase it.