

to their knowledge been carried on from Maryland & that they do believe
no such Trade hath been carried on without their Knowledge by any Person
living in their respective Districts; This being the Case they are unable
they say to inform me by what Artifices & Evasions the Dealers in such in-
quiritous Intercourse find means to cover their criminal Proceedings & to elude
the Law, Nor do I think any One in this Province can inform me certainly
how the Persons concerned in that Trade have managed so as that the Offi-
cers of the Customs in the Northern Colonies & in Rhode Island particularly
where it is said this Trade hath been openly carried on, should not have
been at Liberty to seize the Vessels that returned loaded from the Enemy
Ports which it is said were open to all who had obtained Protections or
Licences from the French Governours who refused them to none that
applied for them. I understand however that since the Commanders of
His Majesty's Ships of War in the West Indies have made captures of
many Vessels that were returning loaded from the Enemies Ports very
few if any have gone directly thither, but that the Trade is now carried
on in another Channel particularly by the Way of Monto Christi on the
Island of Hispaniola to which place it is said the French who live
on that Island bring their Sugars & other Commodities in order to be shipped
on board such English & other Vessels as go thither to receive them & as
carry thither from England, Ireland & N^o America Provisions such other
Necessaries as either the French or Spaniards stand in need of, & I presume
tho I do not know it to be the Case that the British Vessels which trade
to the abovementioned Spanish Port obtain Clearances there from the proper
Officer for the Goods & Commodities they take on board as if the same
were the Product of that part of the Island & regularly purchased from
the Subjects of a Prince in Amity with His Majesty. This I will