

seized here for trading without Registers & I am informed that the Col-  
lector of Potomack District has within these few Days seized a Vessel  
with some foreign Molasses on board, which the Master concealed at  
the Time of making his Entry. As there are a great many Rivers &  
Creeks within this Province into which Vessels coming from Sea may  
run & unload, it would not I think be in the Power of the Officers of  
the Customs alone, were there many more than there are here, entirely  
to prevent all illicit Trade, but I am persuaded that None of the  
Gentlemen who hold such Commissions here, would connive at an  
illicit Trade's being carried on, or let an Offender when discovered escape  
with Impunity. I have indeed been told by some of them that Pilot  
Boats & other small Vessels from Virginia do sometimes come up the  
Bay & trade without making Entry or obtaining Permits by which  
means probably small quantities of Contraband Goods may be imported  
& sold here, but as such Vessels run into Bye Places where they may  
be unloaded in a few hours before an Officer can be apprized thereof  
It is not as I have intimated in the Power of the Land Officers altogether  
to prevent such Intercourse; but I am of Opinion that a Stop might  
be put to it if a few Cutters were stationed in Chesapeake Bay One  
of them as high up a Potomack River with Orders to cruise there  
constantly, to examine every deck'd Vessel (however small) which they  
should be able to board & to seize such as should not be furnished with  
proper Office Papers shewing to whom they belong, whence they came  
whither bound & the kind of Cargo on board. I am also of Opinion  
that if no Sea Vessels trading here were under pain of Forfeiture allow-  
ed to load or unload at any places whatever within this Province  
except at four particular places only on Potomack Potuack Severn