

since England can afford others that are not acquainted with the ways of grinding the face of the poor used by some now, which hard usage hath reduced already the poorer sort of people of this province to a condition little better than that pagan & salvage manner of living which you seem to fear from a Cessation.

3. The third Reason is founded upon stealing his Majesty's Customs by Seamen & were not worth the answering, but that perhaps some Men might think there is more weight in it to sway a Man's Judgment against a Cessation from planting Tobacco for a Year than in truth it doth, Wherefore We will give you not Grant you that Seamen will not come for any other Commodity but Tobacco, & therefore assure you that we will not plant so much tobacco so long till it be worth nothing to them or us, & we do conceive the Lower House cannot in prudence think it fit to have the Province plant Tobacco merely to have the Seaman's Company even now when the Planter gets nothing for it In short our design is to advance the price of Tobacco to make it worth planting & fetching & that yourselves say will invite the Seamen when there is Tobacco & when there is none we need him not

4. But whether shall the Freemen go? Not to Virginia because there is a Cessation nor to the other American plantations because yourselves say their Commodities are as contemptible as Tobacco, & we have demonstrated that no prudent man will make that perishable Drug Tob^o in those parts therefore he must of necessity stay here & if permitted to plant Tobacco till it will supply his wants having nothing to love will at last rob others that are better furnished

Neither doth it clearly appear to us that the departure of the Freemen will be a misfortune, but may possibly be an Advantage to the Freeholder, & they are the strength & only strength of the province, not the Freemen, It is their persons & not Stocks must bear the Burthen of the Government both in Peace & War & not Freemen who can easily abandon us & could they depart the province in general which we know they cannot & would the Freemen do it, yet if to gain them today we should be forced to do that which is best for the Freeholder of the province that hath Stock Wife & Children fixed & irremovable as we may say here. We were unworthy to be called the two Houses of Assembly but we do know that they either cannot leave the province for poverty or will stay in it till the mean price of Tob^o drive them out of it or else which we more fear force them to Commit Outrages in it for want of necessaries not to be provided by Tobacco because worth nothing

5. your first Reason says your Quantity of Tobacco doth not lessen the price here but the want of Ships to fetch it away, What is this in plain English but to say that there is more Tobacco than the Ships that are or