

were here this Year can carry away? Have we not then glutted the present market here why then shall we not have a Cessation to make tobacco bear a price here; & that it will bear whenever a ship that by chance comes cannot have loading witness that year when Mr. Humphrey Warren Mr. Hozer & others gave two pence for lb. Bills of Exchange than pay dead Freight when the Tob<sup>o</sup> in London yielded not above three half pence, Neither do yourselves offer at any hopes of more shipping nor can in prudence expect the War should end these two years during which time it were vain to plant that which by your own arguments cannot be fetched so that upon the whole Matter we see no reason to recede from our desires of that act for Encouragement of Trade at least our Trade for what imports it us to hear that Tobacco bears a price at London or in Russia if it will not buy us what here it is here we must make it stand & then it will be dear and purchase Clothing Arms & Ammunition which now it will not & without them we must needs all perish.

Wherefore the Governour & Upper House do Conjure you Gentlemen of the Lower House to consider the calamitous Condition of the Province in want of Cloths at home, assaulted by Enemies abroad & no means provided as yet to make our only commodity Tobacco of sufficient value to purchase either Clothing for ourselves or Arms to defend us

The last Assembly denied us a power to maintain War without the limits of the Province the consequence of that was the unrevengeable yet unrevengeable murder of thirty innocent people & the ruin of more yet living in their Estates & Plantations You think you have done better by giving us a power to maintain War without the Province by buying Tob<sup>o</sup>, what signifies that act unless by a Cessation you bring it to a value & Estimation could Tobacco procure so much as Credit for meat & drink & necessary Expences at New York for provisions to be sent thither, Col. Nicholls might perhaps procure us a certain & cheap peace with the Cinquos as is manifest by his noble obliging & friendly Letters sent into this Province But as the Case stands the Governour can neither arm Soldiers to fight for you nor send Com<sup>o</sup> to treat for you, nor indeed accept of that act for maintaining War without the Province without hazarding his Honour not only to the censuring of our neighbouring Governments but also to the Scorn of the King & Infidell. Wherefore we now as before protest we are innocent of the Blood already spilt having done our Endeavours in the last Assembly to prevent it, & will hold ourselves guiltless of all the Blood that may hereafter be shed for want of your Care in this Affair; if you consent not to a Cessation from planting Tob<sup>o</sup> for the year 1666, which alone can put the Governour into a Condition to secure you. Consider further that a Quill must needs be the effect of planting still as much as before, a Mint is impracticable so that there is no way