

our Health and Estates by their Commission and other Perquisites which they make to themselves by ways hardly justifiable and by laying Obligations on the Masters of such Ships to take no Tobacco on Freight but from such who will consign to the Employers of such Masters especially when they have so much Advantage by Plenty of Freighters as to force it, thereby engrossing all the Consignments they can to themselves and frustrating the publick and general Advantage which Shipping ought to be to the Nation. Hence we presume it comes to pass they have made this Scruple about the Size of the Hogheads of this Province exceeding that of Virginia; we have enquired into their Gauge and find ours now used exceeds but two Inches in Diameter of the Head being equal in length: For justifying our Size we humbly offer <sup>this</sup> Reason to your Majesty that the Tobacco generally made in Virginia is a more substantial thick waxy Leaf and of consequence weighs heavier and contains greater Number of Pounds in one Hoghead of their Size and their Tobacco than in one of our Size filled with our Tobacco which is more light and shaffoy in so much that they as we compute ordinarily get three thousand two hundred Pounds of Tobacco carried home as cheap as we get 2200 which one Reason being taken into your Majesty's Royal Consideration we hope will induce your Majesty to suffer us to hold the same Gauge which is so trivial a Damage to the Stowage of Ships that we wonder any should trouble your Majesty with it. But if any through Greediness make their Stuffs of unreasonable Length (which indeed is more likely to be of Prejudice in Stowage) we are willing either to subject them to greater Penalty or the Commanders of Ships may make them pay an higher Freight proportionable or refuse to take or agree for the Freight of them.

Your Dread Sovereign having as we think truly Stated the Case of the Trade of this Province your Majesty will discern who bear the Burthen and consider that we cannot but justly complain when we see our Hogheads cropped and defaced and the Tobacco by great Parcels taken out of the Cask which should defend it and thrown into Holes and corners and most abominably detrimented in Quality so liable to Plunder and Pillage and other Damage too many to particularize to your Majesty whereby it comes to pass to our too certain Experience that our Tobacco comes very light Home and being consigned to the Owners of the Ship by the Artifices aforesaid by whom such Damage ought to be repaired and the Owner himself tho' against that Damage should demand it we go altogether without Redress being so far from the Spot and Scene where such Abuses are acted this puts us upon making the Bill against Cropping which yet proves but of small Effect to restrain it. But we hope we have hereby shown Reason to induce your Majesty not only to favour this Bill but any other that may be devised to secure our Goods from such Rages and Plunder and in a special Manner to obtain your Royal Favour to support us which favour we stand in need of above all your Subjects because we think we are the most imposed upon by the Owners and Masters of Ships and the least able to help ourselves.