

True it is that the Circumstances of Trade is much altered since that Time and as it would grow of ~~great~~ Consequence to reduce you back to the former Height so it is very injurious to the Crown if due regard Proportion be not had to its Rights. It is therefore expected on his Majesty's Behalf that you will reform those Abuses. The Inhabitants of this Province with a commendable Industry use their best Endeavours to cultivate the Growth of Tobacco; but there still remains many spacious Tracts of this fertile Soil (especially on the Eastern Shore) which is not so agreeable to the Nature ^{of that} valuable Plant but excellently well adapted to the making of Hemp. What of this kind has been hitherto only raised for a Home Consumption in the Opinion of the Mariners equals the best that grows in Europe. The Improvement of this Manufacture is worthy your mature Consideration. You have already great Encouragement from the Crown for Importation. You are certain of a Market in England for your Produce, and have a sufficient Quantity of Sails (as I am informed) to supply Great Britain with Sails forever. The Want of Seamen to navigate the Vessels is a mighty Obstacle to the Trade of this Province; and since the Humour of the Generality of the People is such that they will not send their Children to Sea, if some Method were found of disposing Annually of a certain Number of the Youth maintained by the several Counties, it would in few Years be of considerable Use and Advantage to this Province in particular and promote Navigation in general. It is with Compassion I observe so many young Men of admirable natural Parts grow up without the least Improvement of Art to form their Minds and make them more useful to their Country. It is more than Time to repair the great Neglect that is shew'd to Learning here.

It lays at your Door to accomplish the good Works of laying a Foundation for sufficient Schools - The Consequence of such Education will be to see your Sons increase in Knowledge and Virtue, as well as in Wealth and Honour.

You will likewise have the Blessing of the Poor in this Life and Posterity will praise you as Benefactors of your Country.

Gentlemen, Let not the Novelty of what I have offer'd prove an Obstacle to the publick Good: Good Things obtain Perfection at the first setting forth. This Province is but yet in its Infancy. The Means to make it grow up to flourishing Maturity is by using of Industry in your Traffick and by countenancing of useful Learning; but these also are here in their tender Age; so they must be nourish'd with Care, Time and Patience.

John Hart

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