

Gentlemen, I am inclinable to impute the decay of the Revenue here more to accident in trade than to any intention of the good people of the Province to defraud the Crown, but what was at first only the accident of trade is now grown into a pernicious custom by which the Revenue is greatly impaired as will evidently appear by a Law made in an Assembly of the 30th April 1679. to that Law I am refered by my Instructions which I shall Communicate to you for your information.

True it is that the Circumstance of trade is much altered since that time and as it would prove of evil Consequences to reduce you Cash to the former weight, soe it is very injurious to the Crown, if due regards for proportion be not had to its rights. It is therefore Expected on his Majesty's behalfe that you will reform these abuses.

The Inhabitants of this Province with a commendable industry use their best endeavours to cultivate the growth of Tobacco. but but there still remains many spacious tracts of this fertile Soyle (especially on the Eastern Shore) which is not soe agreeable to the Nature of that profitable 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 opinions of the Mariners Equals the best that grows in Europe. An improvement of the 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 land (as I am informed) to supply Great Britain with Cordage 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 Countys, it would in few years be of considerable use and advantage to the Province in particular and promote navigation in general. It is with satisfaction I observe soe 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 shewed to learning here. It lays at your door to accomplish the good work of laying a foundation for efficient schools. The consequence of such education will be to see your Sons advance in knowledge and virtue, as well as in wealth and honour. You will likewise have the blessings of the poor in this and posterity will praise you as benefactors of your Country.