

GENTLEMEN,

Annapolis, February 6, 1770.

THE Arrival of the Brigantine *Good Intent*, Capt. *William Errington*, from *London*, at this Time, with *European Goods*, having occasioned some Uneasiness in the Minds of the Inhabitants of this Province, arising from an Apprehension, that said Goods are imported with a View to counteract and defeat the End proposed by the General Association, entered into by the Traders and other Inhabitants the 22d Day of *June* last, we, as Importers in said Brigantine, think it a Duty incumbent on us, not only in Defence of our own Honour and Reputation, but for the Satisfaction of the Public, to shew that we have not by this Importation deviated in the smallest Degree from the Terms of the above-mentioned Association——for which Purpose, we now lay before you Extracts of all the Letters which have passed between Mr. *John Buchanan*, of *London*, and us, since the Orders were sent for these Goods, and the original Orders by which they were sent for; and tho' we flatter ourselves, that a Declaration upon our Honour would have been sufficient to have satisfied many of you who are acquainted with us, that these Orders and Extracts are genuine, yet, in order to preclude all Manner of Doubt as to the Authenticity of the Extracts, we are willing that the original Letters and our Letter Book from whence they are taken, should be examined by any Two of the Committee whom you are pleased to appoint; and we farther declare in the most solemn Manner upon our Honour, that nothing, directly, or indirectly, by Letter, or otherwise, has passed between Mr. *John Buchanan* and us, or any other Person whatever, relative to the Orders for these Goods in the Brigantine *Good Intent*, except what is contained in the Papers now laid before you. We likewise lay before you the Invoices, Shop-Notes and Bills of Lading, for the Goods belonging to us on board the Brigantine, amounting to the Sum of 1377 *l.* 25. 3*d.* Sterling clear of Charges, Part of which Goods, to the Amount of 715 *l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* are of those Kinds allowed to be imported; and we have, for your Conveniency, stated an Account to shew at one View, what Part of each Shop-Note is of the Articles prohibited, and of those allowed to be imported agreeable to the Association. You have likewise Alphabetical Lists of said Articles, that you may the more easily examine the above-mentioned Account. We have been at this Pains, in order to convince you that our Orders could not have been given with an Intention, as has been insinuated, of having a larger Quantity of fine Goods than usual. You will observe, Gentlemen, that we claim these Goods in the Brigantine, by Virtue of our Orders, sent the 18th *November* 1768; Part of which Orders, to the Amount of 2738 *l.* including Charges, we received in *May* last; at which Time, we publicly declared our Expectation of the Remainder, and their not arriving sooner we cannot conceive to be any Infringement of the Association; *however we submit the Matter entirely to your Judgment.*

In the Discussion of this Affair, we desire nothing but the strictest Examination into our Conduct; and, as we hope it will appear fair and honourable, so we trust you will give us your public Testimony thereof, in order to satisfy the Public, who may have, from Reports, entertained Notions to our Prejudice.

We are respectfully, GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servants,

C. 2

JAMES DICK & STEWART.