

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

any Negroes, or other the said East India Commodities, in payment or satisfaction for such Relief ; that if any Officer of our Customs, or other Officer employed by you our Governor or Commander in Chief in visiting, searching, or seizing such Ship or Ships, Goods, Merchandize, or Negroes, be corrupt, negligent or remiss in the discharge of his Duty therein, We do hereby require you to suspend him from the execution of his said Office ; and that you do by the first Opportunity send an Account of such Officer's Behaviour to Us by one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, that care may be taken, that such Officer be removed from his Employment, and further punished according to his Demerit,— And Our further Will and Pleasure is, that you Our Governor or Commander in Chief, do constantly from time to time, and by the first Opportunity that shall offer, send us by one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, true, full, and exact Accounts of your Proceedings, and of all other Transactions & Occurrences in, or about the Premises, or any of them.

26. And Whereas, notwithstanding the many good Laws made from time to time, for the preventing of Frauds in the Plantation Trade, it is manifest, that very great Abuses have been and continue still to be practised to the prejudice of the same, which Abuses must needs arise either from the Insolvency of Persons, who are accepted for Security, or from the Remissness or Connivance of such, as have been, or are Governors in the several Plantations, who ought to take care, that those persons, who give Bond, should be duly prosecuted in case of non-performance ; You are to take notice, that we take the Good of Our Plantations and the Improvement of the Trade thereof, by a strict and punctual Observance of the several Laws in force concerning the same, to be of so great Importance to the Benefit of this Kingdom, and to the Advancing the Duty of Our Customs here, that, if We shall hereafter be informed, that at any time there shall be any failure in the due Observance of those Laws, and of these present Instructions, by any wilful fault or neglect on your part, We shall esteem such Neglect to be a Breach of the aforesaid Law ; And it is our fixed and determined Will & Pleasure, that you or the Commander in Chief respectively be for such Offence, not only immediately removed from your Employments, and be liable to the fine of one Thousand Pounds, as likewise suffer such other Fines, Forfeitures, Pains & Penalties, as are inflicted by the several Laws now in force relating thereunto ; but shall also receive the most rigorous Marks of Our highest Displeasure, and be prosecuted with the utmost Severity of the Law for your Offence against Us in a Matter of this consequence, that We now so particularly charge you with.

G: R.