

terett, they are groundless and ridiculous, because nothing can turn more to his Prejudice than the present Method of the Customs, but destroying or lessening the Use of Tobacco; and I have not heard the most sober and experienced Merchants say any Thing of that Sort. The only weighty Reason I have heard offer'd is, that No-body will transact Business for the Planters, if this Scheme takes Place; and without doubt, it will be a great Affliction to them to part with such good Friends; but it is hoped a short Experience will change their Minds, and convince them of their Error: If not, the People of *Virginia*, who have the Misfortune to differ from them in Opinion; and for that Reason are not allowed to have common Sense in an Affair they have some Pretensions to understand, will be forced to own their Mistake, and will undoubtedly desire those Gentlemen to receive them again under their Dominion.

But in the mean Time, they desire to have the Reputation of knowing something in their own Affairs, and of complaining upon very just Grounds, without being led into it by the Contrivance and Artifice of the Ministry, which is
unjustly