

such a profusion of low and illiberal malice ; nor to any other person in the administration.

In the year 1747, Sir William Gooch, lieutenant-governor of Virginia, acquainted the board of trade, that he had been lately much solicited by several persons in partnership, for grants of lands lying on the western-side of the great mountains ; and begged of their lordships to be informed of the royal pleasure on that head. Hereupon his majesty, by order in council, was pleased to refer it to the board of trade ; with directions to consider, whether it might be for his service, and the advantage of the colony, to empower the lieutenant-governor to make such grants of lands. In 1748 the board of trade made their report ; and gave it as their opinion, That the settlement of the country lying to the westward of the great mountains in the colony of Virginia, will be for his majesty's interest, and the advantage and security of that and the neighbouring provinces ; in as much as the British subjects will be thereby enabled to cultivate a friendship, and carry on a more extensive