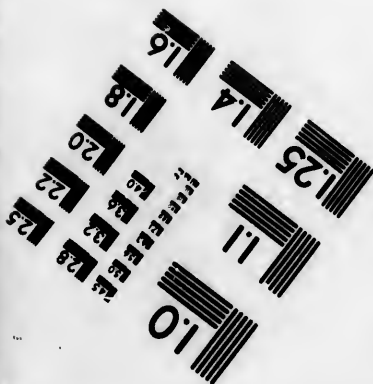
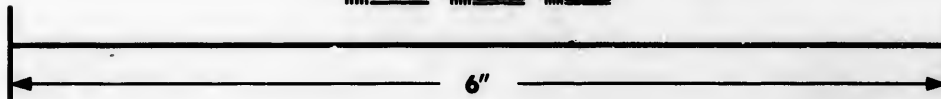
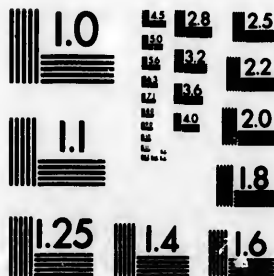


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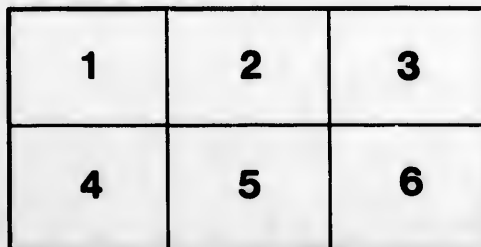
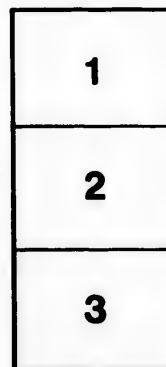
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REPRESENTATION

OF THE

LORDS COMMISSIONERS FOR TRADE AND PLANTATIONS

TO THE KING,

ON THE

STATE OF THE BRITISH COLONIES

IN

NORTH AMERICA.



[Board of Trade, Pla. Genl. (E), No. 38; King's Ma., 205, p. 1.]

1721.

WEED, PARSONS & CO., ALBANY.
1854.

REPRESENTATION
UPON THE
STATE OF HIS MAJESTY'S COLONIES
IN NORTH AMERICA.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please your Majesty.

In obedience to your Majesty's commands, we have prepared the following state of your Majesty's Plantations on the Continent of America; wherein we have distinguished their respective situations, Governments, strengths and Trade, and have observed of what importance their commerce is to Great Britain, whereunto having added an account of the french settlements and of the encroachments they have made in your Majesty's colonies in those parts; we have humbly proposed such methods, as may best prevent the increase of an evil, which, if not timely prevented, may prove destructive to your Majesty's interest; and have likewise offered such considerations, as, in our opinion, may contribute to the improving and enlarging your Majesty's dominions in America.

Your Majesty's plantations on the Continent of America, beginning from the North, are Nova Scotia, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland Virginia, & Carolina.

And although Newfoundland, and Hudson's Bay are both of them parts of your Majesty's Territories in North America, yet neither of them being a Colony under civil Government, or lying contiguous to your Majesty's other Plantations on the continent, we have made no mention of them in this representation.

NOVA SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA, as appears by the Patent granted by your Majesty's Royal predecessor King James the First to Sir William Alexander (afterwards created Earl of Sterling) bearing date the 10th of September 1621, contains all the lands and Islands, lying within the promontory, commonly called Cape Sables, being in forty three degrees of North Latitude, or thereabouts, thence westerly to the Bay, commonly called St Mary's Bay, & from thence Northerly in a straight line by the mouth of that great Bay (which runs easterly up the Country, & divides the two nations called Suroquois & Etichimenes) to the river Saint Croix, thence westerly to the head of that River, thence northerly to the next bay, which discharges itself in the River S^t Lawrence; thence Easterly along the coast to the Bay of Gaspé, thence south-easterly to the Bacalio Islands, or Cape Breton, & leaving that Island on the right, and the Gulph of S^t Lawrence & Newfoundland, and the Islands thereto belonging on the left, thence to Cape Breton, in the Latitude of 45 degrees, or thereabouts, thence South west to Cape Sables again.

We have made use of this ancient Charter fixing the boundaries of Nova Scotia, because the French are daily setting up new pretensions to a very great part of this Province altho' the 12th article of the treaty concluded at Utrecht, expressly provides, that Nova Scotia shall be given up with its Ancient boundaries, & nothing is excepted out of this cession but Cape Breton, & the other Islands, lying in the mouth of the river of Saint Lawrence, & the Gulph of the same name.

The Government of this province, both Civil & Military, is entirely in your Majesty; but as there are hitherto only two or three English families settled here, besides the Garrison of Annapolis, there is very little room for the exercise of Civil Government; neither has your Majesty any revenue in this Country, the lands not being yet peopled, & granted out upon quit rents, as in the other Colonies. There are two Towns in this Province, besides Annapolis; Minas, & Sheganektoo, both settled by french inhabitants, about 2500 persons in number, who have remained there ever since the cession of this Country to Her late Majesty, but are entirely in the french interest, & by their communication & intermarriages with the neighboring Indians have gained them to their party; whereby they are enabled upon any occasion to engage the said Indians in a war against your Majesty's Subjects, & by some late accounts from Nova Scotia, there is too much reason to believe, that they do, at this present juncture, use their endeavours to instigate the said Indians against the Garrison of Annapolis, & others your Majesty's subjects fishing at Canço, & upon the Coast of Nova Scotia.

The little trade, derived in this Country at present, is entirely in the hands of these french inhabitants. It consists chiefly in fish, which is more plentiful here, than on any other coast of America; they have likewise some furs & Cattle, but whatever products or Merchandize the french inhabitants have to dispose of, is transported by them either to Cape Breton, Quebec, or directly to France, which is to the prejudice of Great Britain; for which reason, as well as many others, it is absolutely necessary for your Majesty's service, that these french inhabitants should be removed; for it is not to be expected, that they will ever become good subjects to Your Majesty, & there is all the reason in the world to apprehend, that, upon any rupture between the two Crowns, they may openly declare in favour of france.

It was provided by the Treaty of Utrecht, that the french inhabitants of Nova Scotia should have a year allowed them to remove from thence, with their effects; but they have long since lapsed that time, & such as remained beyond it were, by the said Treaty, to become subjects

to Her late Majesty; but these people, being influenced by their Priests, have hitherto unanimously refused to take the oaths of Allegiance to your Majesty, unless they may be allowed an exception in favour of France, which would render their engagements to your Majesty entirely ineffectual.

But as we foresaw, that difficulties were likely to arise upon this subject, so in the instructions which we prepared for Colonel Philipps, Your Majesties Governor of this Province, a provision was made for this Case, & he is enjoined to prohibit the said french inhabitants refusing to take the Oaths, the liberty of fishing on the Coasts, and to prevent their removing their effects, till your Majesty's further pleasure shall be known; & considering their behaviour, we are of opinion it will be for your Majesty's service that they should be ordered to quit the Province.

But as to their effects, in regard of the friendship subsisting between the two Nations, provided the said French inhabitants do leave their immovable effects, such as Barns, & dwelling houses, in good condition, we should humbly conceive, they might by your Majesty's special Grace and favour, be allowed to carry off, to such place as they shall think most convenient, all their moveables.

Upon their removal this Province will become almost entirely unpeopled; and as it is the Northern frontier to your Majesty's Colonies, we think it is of the highest consequence, that the same should be settled as soon as possible: which reason, we would humbly propose to your Majesty, the sending four Regiments thither; and altho' we are sensible of the expence this would occasion for some time to Great Britain, yet we believe, the same will not be thought unreasonable, considering the inclination the french have shewn to encroach upon your Majesty's frontiers in these parts, the great strength they have at Cape Breton, in the neighbourhood of this Province, which will be increased by the removal of the french inhabitants from Nova Scotia, (altho' that will be a much less evil than suffering them to remain where they are,) and that no other way, so speedy as this, can be proposed for peopling of Nova Scotia.

We are likewise of opinion, that all due encouragement should be given to such of your Majesty's subjects, as shall be willing to settle in this Province; and that your Majesty's Governor may be enabled to pursue his Instructions upon this head, we take the liberty to lay before Your Majesty the necessity there is, that your Majesty's Surveyor General of the woods should be forthwith ordered to repair to Nova Scotia, there to set apart 200,000 Acres in certain tracts of Land, contiguous to the Sea Coast or Navigable rivers, proper for producing of mast & other timber for the service of your Majesty's Royal Navy; for after this shall be done, & not before, the said Governor is empowered by his Instructions, to make Grants of land in small parcels, under the Quit rent reserved to your Majesty of one shilling, or three pounds of hemp for the service of your Royal Navy, for every fifty Acres.

If this Country was well settled, it would be capable of a very extensive trade. There are to be had as good masts, as any in all America, in great plenty. Pitch, Tar, Rozin & Turpentine may be made in all parts of the Country; & Hemp & Flax might be raised there without great expence; to which, in our opinion, all due encouragement should be given, that Great Britain may in time, become independent of her Northern neighbours for Naval Stores.

But the branch of Trade in this Country, which seems most capable of immediate improvement, is that of the fishery upon the Coast, from Cape Sable, to the gut of Canço, which is perhaps more valuable than any other in America; but for want of protection against the Indians,

Inhabiting Nova Scotia, who are entirely in the French interest, few British Vessels dare to venture to cure their fish there; & the French from Cape Breton, contrary to the Treaty of Utrecht (by which they are expressly excluded from all kind of fishing on the coasts which lie towards the East beginning from the Island commonly called Sables inclusively, and thence stretching along towards the South west,) ingross almost the entire benefit of this valuable trade, to which they have set up an unreasonable pretence, as appears by the daily disputes we have with them concerning the fishery at Canço; for which reasons, it would be for your Majesties Service, that some small Forts might be built without loss of time, in proper places upon the Coast & Islands from Cape Sables to the Gut of Canço, for the security of this Trade, & particularly on Saint George's Island, which is one of those that form the Cape of Canço, & has the greater Command of the little Bay there; which will be the more necessary, in regard that there are no Forts or fortifications in this Province, but one at Annapolis Royal, in the Bay of Fundy, with a Garrison of five companies of about forty men each; whereas the french at Cape Breton are very strong, having built two considerable Forts there, give all manner of encouragement to such people as are willing to settle with them, & are actually settling some other Islands on the Coast of Nova Scotia.

It will likewise be of great importance, that a small man of War should be constantly employed to attend this Colony, which has at present so many difficulties to struggle with.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The next Province is that of New HAMPSHIRE. The soil belongs to a proprietor, but the Government is in your Majesty. This Colony lies between the Massachusetts Bay & the province of Maine, which last is comprehended in the Charter of the Massachusetts Bay. King James the First, did, by his Letters patents of the third of November in the 15th year of his Reign, grant to the Duke of Lenox (under the name of the Council of Plymouth) "All that part & portion of that Country, now commonly called New England, which is situate, lying & being between the Latitude of 40 degrees & 45 of Northerly Latitude, together with the Seas & Islands lying within one hundred miles of any part of the said coast of the country aforesaid."

The Council of Plymouth did, by their Indenture of the 7th November 1629, in the 5th year of the Reign of King Charles the First, grant to John Mason of London Esq. that tract of Land now called New Hampshire, the boundaries whereof are as follow, viz^t

"All that part of the main Land in New England, lying upon the Sea coast, beginning from the middle part of Merrymack river, & from thence to proceed northwards along the Sea coast to Piscattaway River, & so forwards, up within the said River, & to the furthest head thereof; & from thence Northwestward, until sixty miles be finished from the first entrance of Piscattaway River & also from Merrimack through the said River, and to the furthest head thereof, & so forward up into the Land Westward, until Sixty miles be finished; & from thence to cross over land to the sixty miles end, accounted from Piscattaway River; together with all Islands & Islets within five Leagues distance of the premises, and abutting upon the same or any part or parcel thereof."

At first this Province was under the Government of the Massachusetts Bay; but in the year 1679 King Charles the second separated it from the Massachusetts Bay & appointed a President & Council to govern the same; & in the year 1681, His said Majesty appointed Edward Cranfield His Governor of this Province; when the said Mason did, for the support

of the Governor and the Government, surrender to His Majesty his right to all fines & forfeitures, which should arise or happen in the said Province, as also one full fifth part of all such Rents, revenues & profits, as should from time to time arise to him, his heirs, or Assigns, out of the said province.

The property of the lands here was some years afterwards sold by Mason to one Allen whose heirs or Assigns are now in possession of them.

The number of people in this Province upon the arrival of Colonel Shute, the present Governor, in the year 1716, was computed at about 9000, of which there were 1500 men, very few white servants, and 150 blacks: the increase during the last four years, was about 500.

The Indians, that bordered upon this Province, are those which are called the eastern Indians, entirely in the french interest.

Lumber, Fish, Masts for the Royal Navy, & Turpentine are the chief produce of this Province; they build some ships, but not so many since the last war as before; they have some mines, which produce very good Iron, tho' but little of it hath been hitherto forged; there are likewise great quantities of Stone, in which 'tis believed there may be silver. The annual produce of these commodities is very uncertain, the price falling & rising according to the demand there is for them, seldom exceeding £50,000 per Annum of New England money.

This Province would produce hemp & flax if proper encouragement were given for it, & the people had good seed for the first sowing.

They export their Lumber, & some part of their fish to the neighbouring Governments of the West Indies, & to the Western Islands, from whence they get their Wines. They likewise have sent some Lumber, tar & Turpentine of late to this Kingdom, in exchange for linnen & woolen manufactures; but they have some supplies of this kind from Ireland also, either directly or by way of other plantations. Their best & most merchantable fish is exported to Portugal & Italy & the produce of it generally remitted to this Kingdom except what is returned in Salt for the fishery.

Their fishing is much increased since the Peace with France, but the Lumber trade decreased, by reason of the low price it bears in the West Indies, & the little encouragement there is to send it to this Kingdom, because of the duties on that commodity here.

The Ships, trading directly from this Province to foreign parts, are now very few, not exceeding 20 in number, but they have about 100 fishing vessels, & the number of sea faring men is near 400, tho' many of them not settled Inhabitants there; and there are no manufactures carried on in this province.

There is but one fortification in this Colony, called Castle William and Mary which is situate at the mouth of the harbour of Piscattaway, on which there are forty two Guns mounted, & it is in a tolerable state of defence.

The constitution of this Province is the same with all others, immediately under your Majesty's Government in America. They have a Governor, Council & Assembly.

The Governor & Lieutenant Governor for the time being, are appointed by your Majesty, as is the Council, which consists of twelve persons. The Assembly are elected by the people, & consists of fifteen, but the Revenue of this Province is hitherto very insignificant.

MASSACHUSETT'S BAY.

The Province of the MASSACHUSETT'S Bay, was by letters Patent from King James the First, dated the 3rd of November in the 15th Year of his reign, granted to the Council established at Plymouth, & the said Council did, by an Indenture under their Common Seal, bearing date the 19th day of March, in the 3rd year of the reign of King Charles the first, grant all the said Lands mentioned therein to certain persons, their heirs & assigns, which was confirmed by the said King Charles in the fourth year of his reign. However, in 1684 a judgment being given in the Court of Chancery upon a scire facias, the said patent was vacated by King Charles the second.

But upon a Petition of the Agents of that Colony to their late Majesties King William & Queen Mary, praying to be re-incorporated, as formerly, their said Majesties were graciously pleased to grant a charter to the inhabitants of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay; the boundaries contained therein, are as follows. "New England which lies & extends from the great River commonly called Monamack, alias Merrimack, on the north part, and from three miles Northward of the said River to the Atlantick or Western sea or ocean on the South part, & all the lands & Hereditaments whatsoever within the limits aforesaid, & extending as far as the outermost parts or promontories of Land called Cape Cod & Cape Malabar north & south, & in latitude, breadth & in length, and Longitude of, and within all the breadth & compass aforesaid, throughout the main land there, from the said Atlantick sea & ocean on the east part towards the South sea, or Westward as far as our Colonies of Rhode Island, Connecticut & the Narraganset's country; & also all that part & portion of main land, beginning at the entrance of Piscattaway Harbour, & so to pass up the same into the furthest head thereof; & from thence Northwestwards till 120 miles be finished, & from Piscattaway Harbour mouth aforesaid, north eastward along the sea coast of Sagadahock; and from the period of 120 Miles aforesaid to cross over land to the 120 miles before reckoned up into the land from Piscattaway harbour through Newickmannock River, & also the North half of the Isle of Shoals, together with the Isles of Capawack & Nantucket, near Cape Cod aforesaid; & also the lands & hereditaments lying & being in the Country or territory commonly called Acadia, or Nova Scotia, & all those lands & hereditaments lying & extending between the said country or Territory of Nova Scotia & the said river of Sagadahock, or any part thereof, & all Lands, grounds, places, soils, woods & wood grounds, havens, ports, rivers, waters, & other hereditaments & premises whatsoever, lying within the said bounds, & limits aforesaid, and every part & parcel thereof, & also all Islands & Islets lying within ten leagues directly opposite to the main land, within the said bounds, & all mines & minerals, as well Royal Mines of gold & silver, as other mines & minerals whatsoever in the said lands & premises, or any part thereof."

But we beg leave to observe to your Majesty, that, altho' Nova Scotia is expressly included in this Charter, yet the same being, at the time the Charter was granted, in possession of the french, by virtue of the Treaty of Breda, this part of the Grant has always been esteemed of no effect, & the people of New England do not pretend any right thereunto.

The Government consists of a Governor, Council & Assembly, the Governor is appointed by your Majesty, the Council consists of 25 persons, who are annually chosen by the Assembly. The Governor has a negative voice upon the nomination of them, & also upon all Elections of Officers in that Province. The Assembly are chosen by the people, & consists of 95. There is a Secretary appointed by your Majesty, & paid by the Assembly.

Thus, altho' the Government of this Province be nominally in the Crown, & the Governor appointed by your Majesty, yet the unequal balance of their constitution having lodged too great a power in the Assembly, this province is, & is always likely to continue in great disorder. They do not pay a due regard to your Majesty's Instructions; they do not make a suitable provision for the maintenance of their Governor, & on all occasions they affect too great an independence on their Mother Kingdom.

It has generally been thought, that an Act of Assembly passed in this Province in the 5th year of His late Majesty King William (which, by virtue of a clause in their Charter not having been repealed within three years, stands as absolutely confirmed as if the same had received the Royal approbation) has not a little contributed to the present disorders there, in as much as by the said Act it is provided, that no person shall be capable of representing any town or borough where such person is not a freeholder & settled inhabitant; from whence it happens, that the Assembly is generally filled with people of small fortunes & mean capacities, who are easily led into any measures that seem to enlarge their liberties & privileges, how detrimental soever the same may be to Great Britain, or to your Majesty's Royal Prerogative.

The Inhabitants are very numerous, & daily increasing, & are computed to be at present about 94,000 souls.

The Militia of this Province, consists of Sixteen regiments of foot, & fifteen Troops of horse, in which were mustered,

e Anno		
1702	..... Men	9,642.
1710.	.....	10,917. besides 500 in service.
1719	.....	14,925. " 300 officers & 800 exempts.
		1,600

By this account it appears, that the Militia is increased above one third in sixteen years; & if the said militia be supposed to bear only the proportion of one sixth to all the rest of the Inhabitants, including old men, women & children, it will naturally follow, that upon a proportionate increase, there must be at present above 30,000 more inhabitants in New England than there were there in 1702.

There are also in this Province several families of the native Indians, who have been civilized by degrees, these make some profession of the Christian Religion, improve their own lands, & dwell in perfect friendship with your Majesty's Subjects, their number (including women & children) amounts to about 1,200.

The products of this Country proper for the consumption of this Kingdom, are timber, turpentine, tar & pitch, masts, pipe & hogshhead staves, whale fins & oil, & some furs. They supply Spain, Portugal, & the West Indies with considerable quantities of fish & Lumber. We are likewise informed, that they have mines of several kinds, which might be wrought upon proper encouragement.

Their Trade to the foreign plantations in America consists chiefly in the Exportation of Horses to Surinam, and (as we are informed) to Martinico, & the other french Islands, which is a very great discouragement to the Sugar planters in the British Islands; for without these supplies, neither the french nor the Dutch could carry on their sugar works to any great degree; & in return for their Horses, they receive Sugar, molasses & rum.

In this Province there are all sorts of Common Manufactures. The Inhabitants have always worked up their own wool into coarse Cloths, druggets, & serges; but these, as well as their homespun linnen, which is generally half cotton, serve only for the use of the meanest sort of people. A great part of the Leather used in the Country is also manufactured among themselves; some batters have lately set up their trade in the principal Towns; & several Irish families, not long since arrived, & settled, to the Eastward, make good Linnen & diaper; however, the excessive price of labour enhances the value of all their manufactures.

It is therefore to be presumed, that necessity, & not choice, has put them upon erecting manufactures; not having sufficient commodities of their own to give in exchange for those they do receive already from Great Britain; & the most natural method of curing this evil would be to allow them all proper encouragement for the importation of Naval Stores, & minerals of all kinds.

The branch of Trade which is of the greatest importance to them, & which they are best enabled to carry on, is the building of Ships, Sloops &c. And according to our advices from thence, they have annually launched from 110 to 160 vessels of all sorts, which at 40 tons one with another, amount to 6000 Tons; & altho' the greatest part are built for account of, or sold to the Merchants of this Kingdom, & in the plantations, nevertheless there belongs to this Province about 190 sail, which may contain 8,000 tons, & are navigated with about 1,100 men, besides 150 boats, with 600 men, employed in the fisheries on their own Coast.

Their Iron works which were erected many years past, furnish them with small quantities of iron for common use, but the iron imported from this Kingdom, being esteemed much better, it is generally used in their shipping.

The fortifications in this province are Fort William on Castle Island, in the harbour of Boston, which Commands the entrance, & is kept in very good repair.

Fort Mary at Winter-harbour, and

Fort George at Brunswick, at the head of Casco bay; & besides the Garrisons, that are kept constantly in these forts, they maintain others at Augusta, Northfield, & Arrowsick

In the year 1718-19 the charges of supporting the Garrison at Fort	£	s	d
William amounted to	1362.	1.	3
The repairs of the said Fort.....	1372.	11.	1
And the charges of all the other Garrisons amounted to	2072.	2.	10
in all.....	<u>£4806.</u>	<u>15.</u>	<u>2</u>

In the neighbourhood of this province there are but few Indians well affected to us, except the five nations near New York, who are in alliance & friendship with that Government, & maintain for the most part neutrality with the french Indians. To the Eastward there are but two tribes of note the Kennebeck, & Penobscot Indians, whose number doth not exceed 500 fighting men. The rest are scattered up & down in small parties, they are generally inclined to the french, whose missionaries always reside amongst them, & seduce them to their interest, but the Canada Indians, viz^t the Hurons, Illinois, & other nations, who are entirely directed by the french, are numerous: & in the late long wars, being assisted by them, often fell upon our western settlements, ravaging & destroying all before them, & barbarously murdering many of the inhabitants, whereby this province was involved in the great debt they are still labouring under; & having no money, nor any provincial product, such as Tobacco in Virginia,

or Sugar in the Islands, they have been constrained ever since to support their credit by publick bills, which are current in payment, but they have till very lately, raised money every year for sinking them by degrees & according to the Treasurer's accounts, they burnt as many of their old bills as amounted to £21792.1^l.8^d in 1718, & £22,244.15^l.5^d in 1719; & issued new bills, to the amount but of £15,000.

But amongst many other irregular & unaccountable proceedings of the last session of Assembly there, we find they have passed an Act for emitting new Bills of credit to the amount of £50,000, in direct opposition to your Majestys instructions upon that subject.

The total expense of this province, in time of war with france, was generally computed at £35,000 per Annum & since the pence at £17,000 per Annum.

In the year ending in May 1719.

	£	s	d
The Land & Poll Tax was given for.....	8250	—	—
The Excise with some arrears produced	2558	11	7
The impost on wine, & other Goods.....	5119	9	0
The tonnage on Shipping.....	622	7	1
The light House account, & fines.....	98	11	5
in all	<u>£16,948</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>1</u>

but deducting what is applied for discharging their former debts, the certain annual charge of the Government is about £11,000.

The publick accounts are all annually examined & audited by the General Assembly; & no payment is made, before it is voted & ordered by the said Assembly; which method, as far as it relates to the Governor's & some other Officers Salaries we humbly conceive may be one time or other prejudicial to your Majesty's service; and it is certain, the last Assembly have retrenched the Governor's Salary there very considerably probably because he hath done his Duty to your Majesty, & refused to comply with their inclinations, in methods contrary to your Majestys Instructions.

RHODE ISLAND.

RHODE ISLAND has usually been reported a part of New England, lying in the Narraganset Bay, & the territory, comprehended in the Grant of that Colony, is bounded on the west by the channel of a River called Pacatuck, or Pawcawtuck, stretching Northerly to the head of the said river, & from thence by a straight line due North to the South boundary of the Massachusetts Colony on the North, & on the East by the said Massachusetts Colony, & on the South by the Ocean; & the charter for this Colony particularly grants the lands belonging unto the town of Providence Patuxet, Warwick, Misgammacock, alias Pawentuck, & the rest upon the main land in the tract aforesaid, together with Rhode Island, Block Island & all the rest of the Islands & Banks in the Narraganset's Bay, & bordering upon the coast of the tract aforesaid, Fisher's Island only excepted.

This is a Charter Government, granted by King Charles the second, in the 15th year of his reign, & consists of a Governor Council & Assembly. The King appointed the first Governor, Deputy Governor &c. but they have since been annually chosen among themselves, by which means they evade the Act of the 7th & 8th of King William, intituled "An Act for preventing frauds & regulating abuses in the plantation trade," whereby it is enacted, that all propriety

Governors shall be allowed & approved of by your Majesty, before they enter upon the Government. But by choosing their Governor annually, tho' 'tis generally the same person, his turn is expired, before any such approbation can be had, if they did apply for it, pursuant to the above Act, which hitherto they never have done.

We find that in the year 1697, an Instruction was given to the late Earl of Bellomont^t, then Governor of the Massachuset's Bay &c in the following words, viz^t

“And lastly, whereas the Lords Spiritual & temporal in Parliament have also by their forementioned Address humbly proposed to His Majesty, that the Colonies of Connecticut, Rhode Island & Providence Plantation, having their Governors & Assistants chosen Annually by the people there, having no proprietors here in England, & being become a great receptacle for pirates, & carrying on several illegal trades, contrary to the Acts for the Government of the Plantations, the Governors of those several places, may therefore be obliged to give security to observe & obey all instructions that shall be sent to them from His Majesty, or any acting under his Authority pursuant to the several Acts of Trade, relating to the Plantations; His Majesty's Will & Pleasure is, that the respective Governors of these forementioned Colonies do give unto you such security, according to the form of a Bond prepared here, by Our Attorney General for that purpose which will be herewith delivered to you, & that you therefore accordingly require it from them.”

But the said Instructions having not been continued to the succeeding Governors, we conceive it necessary, that it should be repeated.

As to the number of inhabitants in this Colony their trade & state of their Government, we have but very imperfect accounts; & indeed the Misdemeanors of this & most of the other proprietary Governments are so numerous, that we shall not trouble your Majesty with them in this place, but will take leave to give our humble opinion concerning them in the concluding part of this representation.

CONNECTICUT.

CONNECTICUT is bounded on the East by Narraganset River, commonly called Narraganset Bay, where the said River falleth into the sea, on the North by the line of the Massachusets plantation, & on the South by the sea.

This government is upon the same foot as Rhode Island, under the same regulations of Government, & liable to the same inconveniences.

NEW YORK.

The Government of New York, in which Long Island is included, is bounded on the South west by the province of New Jersey, North west by Delaware river, North by the french settlements on Canada river, East by the Colony of Connecticut, & South by the sea.

This Government is in the Crown. Your Majesty appoints the Governor, & Council, which consists of twelve persons, the Assembly is chosen by the people, & is composed of nineteen members.

The Governor in this, as in all other Provinces under your Majesty's immediate Government, has a Negative in passing laws. His salary is £1200 per Annum, payable out of the revenue of the province.

Her no fixed revenue belonging to the Crown, besides the quit-rents, which have been established only since the year 1702, by an Instruction from Her late Majesty to the Lord Cornbury, then Governor of that province, at the rate of 2^s 6^d on every 100 acres of land to be granted from that time, & are to be accounted for here in this Kingdom. These quit rents have not hitherto amounted to much more than £400 a year; but having been put under a better regulation by Brigadier Hunter, the late Governor, it is expected they amount in some time to more than double that sum every year.

The revenue raised by the Assembly for the support of the Government, has never been granted for any term exceeding five years, the last grant of it was to expire this year; but Mr Burnet the present Governor, has got it prolonged for five years more.

The natural produce of this Country consists in provisions, which are sent to the British Islands in the West Indies; in Horses sent to Surinam, Curaçoa, & S^t Thomas, & in Whale-oil, & peltry to this Kingdom; besides some Naval stores, which this Country is capable of producing in very great quantities, if proper measures were taken for this purpose.

In the year 1709, a scheme was proposed by this board, & approved by Her late Majesty, for employing 3000 Palatines in this work. Accordingly near that number were sent over, to be maintained at Her Majesty's expense, till they could be settled so as to provide for their own subsistence, & be able by their labour to repay by degrees the money advanced on their accounts, of which number 2227 were settled on several places contiguous to the Woods on Hudson's River, employed in preparing of trees for the making of tar, & had actually in the year 1713, prepared above 100,000 trees, capable of producing about 30000 barrels of Tar, which, at 5^s per barrel, the price it was then sold for at New York, would have amounted to £12,000, but before this could be perfected Brigadier Hunter, who was at that time Governor of the Province, after having subsisted those Palatines, as long as he was able to do it, upon his own money & credit, without receiving the promised remittances from hence, or orders to discontinue the undertaking, was obliged to put a stop to it, when it might otherwise have proved a very great advantage to this Kingdom. Some of the Palatines remained, and applied themselves to husbandry &c. The rest dispersed into the neighbouring Colonies, or into distant parts of this province, where they settled themselves in a riotous manner, on lands belonging to other persons; & having presented a petition about two years ago to the then Lords Justices, in which they desired, upon false suggestions, to have the possession of those lands confirmed to them, this matter has been referred to the present Governor, Mr Burnet, to examine & report thereupon.

This province could likewise furnish iron in great quantities. It has some Copper & lead, but at a great distance from the British, & amongst the Indian Settlements. There are Coal Mines in Long Island, which has not yet been wrought.

The several Commodities, exported from this Kingdom to New York, have at a medium of three years, commonly amounted to about £50,000 a year. The imports from thence have not, upon the same medium, risen higher than £16000 a year; so that the balance in favour of this Kingdom, as far as can be judged of it by the Custom house accounts, has been upwards of £25,000 a year.

The Vessels belonging to this province are small, & not considerable in number; being employed only in carrying provisions to the Southern Islands, and in the coasting trade to the Neighbouring colonies on the Continent.

The number of the inhabitants in this province increases daily; chiefly from New England, & from the North of Ireland. The militia consists of 6000 men. Here are four independent companies maintained at the expence of the Crown, & employed to garrison several forts; one whereof is at New York, another at Albany, and a third at Shenectady. There is likewise a small fort in the country of the Mohawk Indians. The fort at New York has 4 regular bastions faced with Stone, & mounted with 50 guns, but has neither ditch, or outworks, the other three forts have only palisadoes.

This province by reason of its situation, being almost in the middle of the British Colonies on the Continent, & the nearest of any to the French settlements on the River Canada, & to their Indians, as well as for the immediate influence or command it has over the 5 Nations of Indians, might most properly be made the seat of Government for a Captain General if your Majesty shall think fit to appoint one, & a barrier to the Neighbouring Colonies. For this reason, particular care should be taken to put the forts already built in the best condition they are capable of, & to build others in such places, where they may best serve to secure & enlarge our Trade & Interest with the Indians, & break the designs of the French in these parts; for this purpose, it would be of great advantage to build a fort in the country of the Seneca Indians, near the Lake Ontario, which perhaps might be done with their consent by the means of presents, and it should the rather be attempted without loss of time, to prevent the french from succeeding in the same design, which they are now actually endeavouring at.

We should here give a particular account of the above mentioned five nations of Indians, if we had not occasion to do it in another part of this representation, relating to the consequence of the communication between the french settlements at Canada & Mississipi, & to which we therefore beg leave to refer.

NEW JERSEY.

The Government of New Jersey is bounded on the East by Manhattan's Island & Long Island, & part of the Sea, & part of Hudson's river, on the West by Delaware Bay or river, which parts it from Pennsylvania, & Southward to the main ocean, as far as Cape May, at the mouth of the said Delaware Bay; & to the Northward as far as to the Northernmost branch of the said Bay, or River of Delaware, which is in 41 Degrees 40 minutes of Latitude; & crossing over thence in a straight line to Hudson's River in New York, & is in 41 Degrees of latitude, as appears by their Charter.

The proprietors of this Province did formerly appoint a Governor for the same; but in the year 1702, they surrendered their right of Government to Her late Majesty; & the Governor of New York hath ever since that time, been appointed likewise Governor of this province; but they have still a separate Council of 12 persons appointed by the King & an Assembly of 24 persons chosen by the people, who make their own Laws.

The greatest number of the inhabitants are Quakers, of which the Council and Assembly chiefly consist.

This Province raiseth by their assembly about 1300*l* per Annum, for the support of their government; but they think it a hardship to pay a Salary to a Governor, who resides in another Province, & would be willing to raise still a further sum for the maintenance of a Governor, who could reside amongst them, which they conceive would greatly advance the trade & welfare of this Country.

This province produces all sorts of grain or corn, the inhabitants likewise breed all sorts of Cattle, in great quantities, with which they supply the Merchants of New York & Philadelphia, to carry on their trade, to all the American Islands; but were they a distinct Government, (having very good harbours) merchants would be encouraged to settle amongst them, & they might become a considerable trading people; whereas, at present, they have few or no ships, but coasting vessels, & they are supplied from New York & Philadelphia with English Manufactures having none of their own.

The Inhabitants daily increase in great numbers from New England, & Ireland; and before this increase, the militia consisted of about 3000 men.

There are but few Indians in this Government, & they very innocent & friendly to the Inhabitants, being under the Command of the five nations of Iroquois, & this plantation not lying exposed, as some other British Colonies do they have hitherto built no forts.

There is great quantity of iron ore, & some copper in this Province.

There have only two patent Officers, viz. an Attorney General & a Secretary. And as all patent Officers appointed in Great Britain, are generally unwelcome to the plantations, so, by several Acts of Assembly their fees are so reduced (especially the Secretarys) that they are not sufficient for his subsistence.

PENNSYLVANIA.

This Province is a proprietary Government, granted by Charter of King Charles the second to William Penn Esq in the year 1680.

Its boundaries, agreeable to the said Charter, are Newcastle County on the South, the river Delaware on the East, unto 43 Degrees of Northern Latitude, & from thence a Meridian line run westward, which is to extend 5 Degrees in longitude.

There are likewise certain Lands lying upon Delaware Bay, commonly called the three lower Counties, which are reputed part of Pennsylvania, & are now actually under the same Government. These lands were granted to the said William Penn, in the year 1682, by King James the second, then Duke of York.

But as the validity of that Grant has been more than once questioned particularly in the year 1717, upon the petition of the Earl of Sutherland praying a Charter from your Majesty of the said Lands, the same was referred to the then Attorney & Solicitor General, who made a report dated 21st October, 1717.

But there having been no further proceedings on that petition, we need only mention, that it appears from the said Report, that your Majesty is at least entitled to a moiety of the rents, issues and profits which shall arise on the said lands contained in the said grant of the Duke of York, made in the year 1682, altho' the same should be valid in Law.

And we the rather take notice of this, because we find, that in the reign of the late Queen Anne, about the year 1712, an agreement was made by the then Treasury with William Penn Esq for the purchase of his Government of Pennsylvania, & the three lower Counties, for the sum of 12,000.£, one thousand pounds of which was paid by warrant of Her late Majesty, bearing date 9th September 1712. & as we think it our duty on all occasions to represent the advantages, that would accrue to your Majesty & the Publick, by taking proprietary governments into your own hands, where it may be done agreeable to Law & Justice, we now beg leave to offer our opinion, that it would be for your Majesty's service to have the said agreement completed, by payment of the remaining 11,000.£; & whether the rents, issues &

profits before mentioned ought not to be accounted for, & made part of the said payment is humbly submitted.

This Province being a proprietary government, as hath been before mentioned, the proprietor thereof has the appointment of a Governor, who, nevertheless must be first approved of by your Majesty, he like wise nominates the Council, and the Assembly are elected by the freeholders.

There is one circumstance very particular in this Charter, viz^t, that the proprietor hath five years allowed him to transmit his Laws for the Royal approbation; but the Crown hath but six months for the repealing them; within which time if they are not repealed, they are to be reputed laws to all intents & purposes whatsoever, from whence it frequently happens, that several Laws, unfit for the Royal Assent, continue in force for five years, & after having been disallowed by the Crown, are enacted again, & by this practice become in a manner perpetual; & this in our humble opinion, is a further reason, why the beforementioned purchase & agreement should be made and completed.

The soil of this Country is various; light & sandy near the rivers, but rich & of a deep black mould further from the water; being well cultivated by the industry of the inhabitants, it produceth whatsoever is necessary for life.

The river Delaware (the only one of consequence to trade in this whole Country) is exceedingly commodious for Navigation except in the two months of December & January, when it is usually frozen up.

The natural produce of this Country is wheat, beef, pork, & lumber. Their Trade consequently consists chiefly in the exportation of these to the several parts of the west Indies, & Madeiras; from whence; in return, they take rum, sugar, Cotton, Spanish money, & wine. They likewise build many Brigantines & Sloops for sale; but having few or no manufactures of their own, they are supplied therewith from Great Britain, to the yearly value of about 20,000.£. And as this province does greatly abound in iron, so we have good grounds to believe, that, if proper encouragement was given in Great Britain, to take off that, & their timber, the people would thereby be diverted from the thoughts of setting up any manufactures of their own, & consequently the consumption of those of Great Britain considerably advanced. For it must be observed, that this Plantation is in a very flourishing condition; greatly increased in its inhabitants; & altho' the informations we have received touching their numbers, differ extremely, some computing them at about 60,000 whites & 5,000 blacks, & others not above half that number; yet they all agree in their opinion, concerning the flourishing state of this Colony, & that the produce of their commodities may well be reckoned at 100,000.£ per Annum.

Four fifths of the inhabitants of this province being Quakers, there is little care taken of their Military affairs. Only one old ruined fort at Newcastle, with six useless Guns belonging to it, nor can we learn, there is any establishment of a Militia for their defence; but it must be allowed, that, to supply this defect, they have taken care to cultivate so good an understanding with their neighbour Indians, by going yearly to their principal Town to renew their peace, & by their fair & just dealings with them; that hitherto they have found no want of any force to protect themselves, & probably may not for some time to come, if the Indians are not instigated by the Artifices of the French to insult & disturb them.

But the endeavours of the French to debauch the Indians from the interest of your Majesty's subjects in America, & likewise the importance of maintaining & improving the strictest friendship with those Indians, with the proper methods of doing the same, being particularly treated on in another part of this report, we shall mention nothing further upon these heads at present.

MARYLAND.

Maryland is a Province situated in the center of the British Plantations on the Continent of America.

It contains, as appears by a charter granted by King Charles the first, dated the 20th of June in the 8th year of his reign, to Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore, all that part of a peninsula, lying between the Ocean on the East, & the bay of Cheseapeake on the West, & divided from the other part thereof, by a right line, drawn from the promontory or cape of Land called Watkins point, situate on the said Bay, near the river Wichon, to the West, into the main ocean on the east, & between that bound on the south, unto that part of Delaware Bay on the north which lies under the 40th degree of Northern Latitude from the Equator, & all that tract of Land between the bounds aforesaid, that is to say, passing from the said Bay called Delaware in a right line by the Degree aforesaid, unto the true meridian of the first fountain of the river Potomack; & from thence tending towards the South, unto the farthest bank of the said river, & following the west & south side thereof, unto a certain place called Cinquack, situate near the mouth of that river, where it falls into the bay of Chesapeake, & from thence by a straight line unto the aforesaid promontory & place called Watkins point, which lies in 37 Degrees & 50 minutes of Northern Latitude.

The Lord Baltimore is by his charter hereditary Governor, & stiled absolute Lord & proprietary of the Province. He is vested in all Royalties, in as full & ample manner, as my Bishop of Durham had, or of right might have had in the Kingdom of England, with a jurisdiction of a Court palatine.

In the year 1691 the Government of this Province was provisionally resumed, (the then Lord Baltimore being a papist) & remained in the Crown till about the year 1715, when the late Lord Baltimore renounced the Romish religion. At present the proprietor appoints a Governor, who is approved by the King, according to the Act of the 7th & 8th of King William.

The Constitution of this Province is the same with that of the other British Colonies on the Continent, with respect to their Laws, which are made by the Council & Assembly, with the consent of the Governor.

There is no revenue arising to the Crown in this province, but a very considerable one to the proprietor.

The ordinary expences of the Government are defrayed by a duty of 12^d per hoghead on all tobacco exported, & 3^d per ton on all shipping inward, & the extraordinary charges of the Government are likewise provided for by the Assembly as occasion requires.

The number of Inhabitants was computed in the year 1704. to be 30,537 men, women & children, & 4,475 slaves young & old, in all 35,012.

In the year 1710 was computed 34,796, whites, & 7,935 negroes, in all 42,741

And in the year 1719. was computed 55,000 white inhabitants, & 25,000 blacks, in all 80,000.

From whence it appears, that the Inhabitants of this province have increased to above double the number in 15 years, & altho' some part of this increase may have been occasioned by the transportation of the rebels from Preston, by the purchase of slaves, as well as by the arrival of several convict persons, & of many poor families, who have transported themselves from Ireland; yet it must be allowed, that Maryland is one of the most flourishing provinces upon the Continent of America.

The Militia is about 8,000 men, well armed, & excellent marksmen.

There are no forts, or places of defence in this province; but there has been lately built at the publick charge a large Magazine at Annapolis, which is well provided with spare Arms for 12,000 foot, & 600 horse, with a great quantity of Ammunition, to maintain which, & to make a further provision of Arms & Ammunition, there is a duty of 3^d per hoghead laid by Act of Assembly on all tobacco exported.

The Indians who dwell within this province, do not exceed 500, & they live peaceably with the inhabitants.

The neighbouring Indians are reported to be many formidable nations, with whom the people have but little commerce, this country being a peninsula, but they have been careful to make those on the frontiers their friends; by which means they have for some time enjoyed a perfect tranquillity.

The soil of this Country is of different kinds but most of it sandy, when cultivated with little labour, it gives a vast increase, & produces all things necessary for life, that Great Britain affords, with which the inhabitants plentifully provide for their subsistence.

Tobacco is the staple commodity of this province of which about 30, or 35,000 hogheads are yearly exported to Great Britain. The inhabitants export some tobacco to the other plantations, as also grain, beef, pork, & lumber, for which they have in return rum & sugar.

They likewise send some corn to the Madeiras for wine, but the most part of the wine they have from thence is purchased by bills of Exchange.

Whilst tobacco answers, in its price, the planter's labour, all manufactures, & all other trade, that might arise from the product of the Country are laid aside.

The Inhabitants wear the like Cloathing, & have the same furniture within their houses with those in this Kingdom. The Slaves are cloathed with Cottons, Kersseys, flannel, & coarse linnens, all imported; & it is computed that this province consumes of British Manufactures to the value of £20,000 per annum.

No mines are yet discovered here, except iron, which are very common, but not wrought, for want of a sufficient stock, & persons of skill to engage in such an undertaking.

The number of ships belonging to this province, are only four small Brigantines, & not more than 20 Sloops for the Sea; the inhabitants not being inclined to navigation, but depending upon British bottoms for the exportation & importation of the bulk of their trade; & there has been employed of late years above 100 sail of ships from Great Britain.

VIRGINIA.

The Government of this Colony was at first under the direction of a Company; but they being dissolved upon their mal-administration, in the year 1626, His Majesty King Charles the first took the Government into his own hands, & settled such laws & constitutions in that province, as were agreeable to those of this Kingdom.

Accordingly the nomination & appointment of the Governors, as well as the Council (which consists of twelve persons) is in your Majesty, & the General Assembly (consisting of fifty two Burgesses) has been always chosen by the freeholders.

The strength & security of this Colony, in a great measure, depend upon their Militia; their plantations being usually at too great a distance from one another to be covered by forts or towns.

James Town and Williamsburg are the only Towns in the whole Country; & there is no Fort of any consequence for the security of their great navigation & trade, but at James Town.

However for their protection against the Indians, who inhabit amongst them, & that live to the Westward they have erected Christianna, & some other Forts; & the Council & Assembly have lately proposed to your Majesty a scheme for securing the passes over the great ridge of Mountains which lie on the back of this Province, dividing them from the french, & Indian Nations in the french interest, whereupon we have sometime since reported our humble opinion to your Majesty, & beg leave upon this occasion to repent, that we conceive their proposal to be deserving of all reasonable encouragement.

Their Militia in the year 1690, consisted of	6,570 horse & foot
In the year 1703, there were mustered.	1403. Officers
	2161. Horse
	1794 Dragoons
	5195 foot
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: 0;"/>
	10,556.

and in the year 1715, they were increased to about 14,000 in all:

from whence we compute, supposing the Militia to be a sixth part of the whole, that the total number of the inhabitants, (exclusive of negroes) amounts to about 84,000 souls.

This province is divided into 25 Counties; & the proprietors of all the lands that have been taken up in 20 of the said Counties, pay an annual quit-rent to your Majesty, of two shillings in money, or 24 pounds weight of tobacco for every hundred acres.

But the propriety of the northern neck (containing the other five Counties) was granted by King Charles the Second, & King James the Second, to the late Thomas Lord Colepepper, upon a quit rent of £6.13^s.4^d. per Annum.

The Lands in the aforesaid twenty Counties, on which the said Quit rent to your Majesty is paid, contained,

In 1704,	2,238,143	} Acres.
In 1714,	2,619,773½	

However, the produce of this revenue is very much governed by the price of tobacco in the country: for example,

On a medium of ten years, ending in 1713, (during which time	£
the tobacco was low) the proceed amounted to	1411. 7 ^s 7½ ^d p ^r An ^m
And in a medium of the four following years (when the price of	£
Tobacco was high)	2270.11 ^s 8 ^d per Annum.

There is another revenue in this province, that is settled and appropriated by the Assembly for the constant support and charge of your Majesty's government.

This consists of several Duties viz^t

	£	s	d
On every Hogshead of Tobacco exported.....	0.	2.	0
On every ton of Shipping.....	0.	1.	3
And on every Poll imported.....	0.	0.	6

Besides the rights of taking up of lands, and fines & forfeitures.

On a medium of six years, ending the 25 th of October 1710,	
The whole produced, clear of all charges.....	2,845.15.11 p ^r An ^m

And upon the same medium,			
The established Salaries &c amounted to	2821.	12.	3
The ordinary Charges.....	176.	12.	5
And the Contingent Expenses.....	97.	3.	2
	<hr/>		
The total Annual Charge, as aforesaid.....	3,095.	7.	10
which exceeds the amount of the revenue.....	249.	11.	11

And this excess hath been generally allowed by your Majesty, as well as by your Royal Predecessors, out of the produce of the quit-rents.

But besides the said standing and certain charge, for which provision is made, as aforesaid, this province has been always obliged, for maintaining their guards & garrisons on the Indian frontiers, for erecting several publick magazines, & buildings & discharging other necessary expenses, to levy certain quantities of tobacco, at so many pounds weight per head, or every tythable, which comprehends all persons exceeding sixteen years of age, except white women.

The number of the said tythables, according to their respective lists.

In 1698 amounted to.....	20,523.
In 1705 to.....	27,053.
In 1714 to.....	31,540.

The principal product of Virginia is tobacco; & in general it's of a better quality than that of Maryland. Before the conclusion of the last peace with France, the Virginia planters exported to this Kingdom at least 30,000 hogsheds per Annum; but about that time, the trade declining, for want of foreign consumption, an Act was passed in the 12th of Her late Majesty's reign for encouraging the tobacco trade, & your Majesty hath been since graciously pleased to give your Royal Assent to an Act for continuing the same.

But as this commodity is of such consequence to the trade of Great Britain, not only with respect to our home consumption, but likewise to our foreign exportations; all further occasions should be laid hold of, for giving some ease & encouragement to the same, by a further reduction of the duty, so soon as it may be done, consistent with the present appropriations thereof.

The other branches of the trade between this Kingdom & Virginia consist in pitch & tar, pipe & hogshhead staves, skins & furs, & a few drugs. They also export to the other Plantations some small quantities of tobacco, provisions, & lumber; but their dependence is almost wholly on the produce of tobacco.

CAROLINA.

CAROLINA was granted by King Charles the second, to several Lords proprietors by two different charters, the first dated 24th March, in the fifteenth year of his reign, which contains all that tract of ground, extending Westward from the North end of Luck Island, as far as the South Seas; Southward as far as the river Saint Matthias; & thence Westward again in a direct line as far as the South Seas aforesaid; together with all the ports, harbours, bays, rivers, isles, & islets thereunto belonging.

The second charter, which is more extensive, bears date the 30th June, in the 17th year of the said King Charles & reaches as far as the north end of Caratuke River or Gullet; and thence upon a straight westerly line to Wyanoake Creek, which is supposed to lie in or about 30 Degrees and 30 Minutes of Northern Latitude.

Carolina is divided into two provinces, called North & South Carolina, which have separate Governors, Councils, & Assemblies.

The Governors of these Provinces have been usually named by the proprietors, subject to your Majesty's approbation.

NORTH CAROLINA.

NORTH CAROLINA was formerly part of Virginia till granted to the Lords proprietors by their second Charter; and it was at a certain place in this province, called Roanoke, that Sir Walter Raleigh's servants made their first Settlement.

The boundary that separates this province from Virginia being conceived in very disputable terms, hath never yet been finally settled though Commissaries have been formerly deputed by the two Colonies for that purpose, who could never agree either upon the Latitude, or upon the true position of Wyanoke Creek; for the Indians, from whom this place derives its appellation, having often wandered, as their usual custom is, over that part of the continent, and fixed, for certain times, at different places there, they have left their name to many creeks.

The South limits of this Colony have likewise admitted of some disputes; the Commissioners of the Lords proprietors having frequently named Cape Fear, instead of the river of that name, for their boundary.

The government of North Carolina is something different from that of the Southern province, resembling more nearly that of Virginia; of which, as hath been observed, it was formerly a part, being divided into two Counties and seven precincts, with petty Courts for each; from whence, in all matters exceeding a certain value, appeals lie to the supreme Court, held by the Governor & Council, which liberty of Appeal as we are informed, your Majesty's subjects at South Carolina do not at present enjoy.

There are great tracts of good land in this Province, & it is a very healthy country; but the situation renders it forever incapable of being a place of considerable trade, by reason of a great Sound near sixty miles over, that lies between the Coast & the Sea, barred by a vast Chain of Sand-banks, so very shallow & shifting, that sloops, drawing only five foot water, run great risk in crossing them.

The little Commerce therefore driven to this Colony, is carried on by very small Sloops, chiefly from New England; who bring them Clothing & Iron ware, in exchange for their pork & Corn: but of late, they have made small quantities of pitch & tar, which are first exported to New England, & thence to Great Britain.

We are not thoroughly informed of the number of inhabitants; but according to the best accounts we could get, the number of persons in their tythables, or poll-tax, were not long since above 1600, of which about one third were blacks.

The Government of this Province, having for many years been a very disorderly one, this becomes a place of refuge for all the vagabonds, whom either debt, or breach of the Laws have driven from the other Colonies on the Continent; and pirates have too frequently found entertainment amongst them.

There is no great prospect, that these mischiefs should be redressed, unless your Majesty should be pleased to resume this, as well as the Southern province into your immediate Government; in which case, North Carolina might, in our opinion, be restored again to Virginia, & put under the care of your Majesty's Governor of that Colony.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

SOUTH CAROLINA extends from Cape Fear to the river of Saint Matthias. The inhabitants of this province, conceiving themselves to be ill used, or greatly neglected by the Lords Proprietors, have lately deposed their Governor, & Council, & chosen a new Governor & Council of their own, which great disorder induced your Majesty to reassume the Government thereof.

This Colony is the Southern frontier to your Majesty's plantations on the Continent, & will no doubt, under the happy influence of your Majesty's immediate protection, become a flourishing Colony.

The trade of this Province, with respect to their own shipping is not hitherto very considerable; the inhabitants not having above 20 sail of their own, amounting to about 1500 ton; & as they chiefly apply themselves to the plantation work, they have not many sea faring men, but their trade is carried on by the Merchants of Great Britain, who reap a considerable advantage thereby.

The commodities the people of Carolina take from Great Britain, are all manner of Cloathing, woollen linnen, iron ware, brass & pewter, & all sorts of household goods, having no manufactures of their own; & their southerly situation will make them always dependent on Great Britain for a supply of these commodities, whose consumption may be computed at about £23,000 per Annum; besides the cost of a considerable number of Negroes, with which the British Merchants have for some time furnished them yearly, taking their returns in rice, & naval stores.

There is a small trade carried on between Carolina & the Madeiras for wine; & the Commissioners of the Customs have a Surveyor General, a Collector, a Comptroller, a Searcher, a Waiter, & a Naval Officer, to put the laws of trade & Navigation in execution here: But daily experience shews, that illegal trade is not to be prevented in a proprietary Government.

The natural produce of this Country is Rice, pitch, tar, turpentine, buck-skins, furs, corn, beef, pork, soap, myrtle-wax, candles, various sorts of lumber, as Masts, cedar-boards, staves, shingles, and hoop-poles; but the soil is thought capable of producing wine, oil, silk, indigo, pot-ashes, iron, henip, & flax.

The number of white inhabitants in this province has some time since been computed at 9000; & the blacks at 12,000. But the frequent massacres committed of late years by the neighbouring Indians, at the instigation of the French & Spaniards, have diminished the white men, whilst the manufacture of pitch & tar has given occasion to increase the number of black slaves, who have lately attempted, and were very near succeeding in a new revolution, which would probably have been attended by the utter extirpation of all your Majesty's subjects in this province; & therefore it may be necessary for your Majesty's service, that the Governor should be instructed to propose some law to the Assembly there, for encouraging the entertainment of more white servants for the future.

The Militia of this Province does not consist of above 2000 men; & therefore, considering the circumstances & situation these people are in, exposed, in case of a rupture, on the one side to the Spaniards, on the other to the French, & surrounded by Savages, who are for the most part, in an interest opposite to that of Great Britain; unless your Majesty shall be graciously pleased to send a Military force to this County, sufficient to protect your subjects, this valuable province in all probability will be lost.

For this reason we took the liberty of representing to the late Lord Justices the necessity of sending four regiments thither to prevent the further encroachments of the French in those parts. We likewise propose, that as well to ascertain the bounds of this province, which have not hitherto been fixed any other way, but by the Charter to the Lords proprietors, as to extend & protect the trade of your Majesty's subjects there, several small forts should be erected in proper places; & that particular care should be taken to secure the navigation of the several rivers, emptying themselves in those parts to the northward of Fort Saint Augustine into the Westward Ocean, but more especially that of the River Alamatahame, which the french have some time ago new christened by the name of river May.

We were humbly of opinion that no time should be lost in a matter of this consequence; because the great difficulties the french have found in the navigation of the river Mississippi, made it necessary for them to secure a better part; & and they did some time ago take Pensacola from the Spaniards; which being since, as we are informed, restored, it is very probable, the french may think of opening another communication from their great settlement at Mobile, down the river Alamatahama to the Western Ocean, which would be a more fatal blow, than any that has hitherto been given to your Majesty's interest in America.

The fortifications in this Country at present are but very few, & their situation not the most advantageous. Charles Town for instance, is regularly fortified, & hath about 100 Guns mounted on the walls the largest not exceeding twelve pound ball.

There is likewise a small fort of about 10 Guns at Port Royal, and a palisadoe fort at the late Savanha Town, of 5 or 6 small Guns, which lies about 140 miles west from Charles Town, towards the head of Santee river one hundred & twenty miles from Charles Town, also another small fort; in all which places there are about one hundred men in Garrison.

But Port Royal seems to have been a good deal neglected, considering it is at present the frontier town, lies ready for the supply of the Indian trade, & the protection of the out garrisons, & has an excellent harbour, for which reason we should think that place ought to be better secured.

It would likewise be for your Majesty's service that other forts should be built in this province, in proper places, for the reasons which shall be mentioned in that part of this representation relating to the means proposed for preventing the encroachments of our European neighbours.

The Indian Nations lying between Carolina & the french settlements on the Mississippi, are about 9,200 fighting men. Of which number 3,400 whom we formerly traded with, are entirely debauched to the french interest, by their new settlement & fort at the Albasas. About 2,000 more, that lie between your Majesty's subjects & those of the french King, trade at present, indifferently with both; but it is to be feared, that these likewise will be debauched by the french unless proper means be used to keep them in your Majesty's interest.

The remaining 3800 Indians are the Cherokees, a Warlike nation, inhabiting the Apalatché Mountains. These, being still at enmity with the french, might with less difficulty be secured; & it certainly is of the highest consequence, that they should be engaged in your Majesty's interest; for, should they once take another party, not only Carolina, but Virginia likewise, would be exposed to their excursions.

Besides the Indians above mentioned, there are about 1,000 savages dispersed in several parts between Carolina & Virginia, from whom we have not much to apprehend, provided

your Majesty's Governors of these provinces live in that perfect harmony & good understanding, which they ought to maintain with each other, & do justice to these poor people, who seldom give the first offence.

It were to be wished, we had not so much reason to complain of our European neighbours in these parts: but, besides the encroachments made by the french, your Majesty's subjects meet with ill treatment from the Spaniards; more particularly at Fort St Augustine, where they have a garrison of 300 or 400 white men, & about 200 indians, who give shelter to all our runaway Slaves, & without regard to peace or treaties, commit frequent acts of hostility upon your Majesty's subjects.

We are not as yet informed, whether the Spaniards have re-settled Pensacola, or what force they have there; but they have a fort at the mouth of the Catahooché river, with about 400 or 500 men in Garrison; & we shall give your Majesty an account of the french force in the neighbourhood, in that part of our report, which relates particularly to their settlements on the Continent.

This province having hitherto but few inhabitants the quit-rents of the Lords proprietors amount only to about 500.£ per annum: but there is a duty of 3^d per skin, for the benefit of the Clergy; & the contingencies of the government, which vary every year, are raised by the Assembly.

There are no Officers in Carolina, that have patents from the Crown; & none appointed at present by your Majesty's Authority, but those of the Governors & Custom house Officers. All other Officers, both Civil & military, hold their employments immediately under the Lords proprietors, their Governors, or the Assembly.

Rice being the principal & staple commodity of this province; & the merchants trading to Carolina having often complained, that the advantage they formerly reaped, by supplying Portugal with rice, hath been almost entirely lost, since the Act of the 3^d & 4th years of Queen Ann, whereby rice is made one of the enumerated commodities, & the importation thereof restrained to Great Britain, we think it necessary, before we conclude what we have to offer concerning this province, to lay before your Majesty a particular state of this trade.

Before the production of rice in Carolina, the Kingdom of Portugal was supplied with very great quantities every year from Italy;

And the great consumption thereof in Portugal, with the liberty of transporting it directly thither from the Plantations, as freely as any other grain, first induced the people of Carolina to plant and propagate it.

Their labour & industry being by degrees rewarded, by an abundant increase of this useful & valuable product; they had a very fair prospect of wholly supplying the Portugal Markets therewith.

But being deprived by the foresaid Act, of the liberty of transporting their rice directly to Portugal, & the additional freight, (from this to that Kingdom) with all other charges thereon, amounting to about one third part of its value, no rice could be carried from England to Portugal, but when the price has happened to be very high there.

But the true state of this affair will best appear by the following account of the quantities of rice imported, & re-exported communibus annis, on a medium of five years, from Christmas 1712 to Christmas 1717. viz

State of the Colonies.

25

<i>Imported.</i>		Cwt
From Carolina & the other Plantations.....		28,073
From East India, Turkey, & Italy about.....		250
The total import		28,323 p ^r An.
<i>Re-exported</i>		
To Portugal, Spain, & other parts, to the Southward of Cape Finisterre.....		Cwt 2,478
To Holland, Germany, & other countries to Northward of Cape Finisterre		20,458.
The total Export.....		22,936 p ^r An.
Remained for consumption		5,387
		28,323.

It is evident from this account, that the exportation of rice from Great Britain to the Northward is very considerable, & that the exportation of this commodity to the Southward is very small; which can arise from no other cause, but the great expense that attends the same in double freight, the rice of Carolina being esteemed the best in the world; but by that means it happens, that the Italians, being near at hand, have almost entirely beaten your Majesty's subjects out of this trade, which proves very detrimental to the navigation of Great Britain. For if the Italians had not a vent for their rice in Portugal, they would hardly be able to carry on a trade to that Kingdom & Spain in their own shipping, they having no other gross goods, but rice, & pepper, sufficient to furnish a lading for great ships; & they dare not venture in any others for fear of the Algerines.

We would therefore humbly submit to your Majesty, whether it might not be for the advantage of the plantations, & of Great Britain likewise, to allow, that rice might be carried from Carolina directly to Portugal, or any other part of Europe, to the Southward of Cape Finisterre, upon giving security, that every vessel so freighted, shall touch in Great Britain, before she returns to the West Indies.

THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE PLANTATION TRADE.

Thus having gone through the several Colonies on the Continent, in order to demonstrate the consequence their trade is of to Great Britain; we have drawn out from the Custom House books an Account N^o t. containing the total amount or value of all goods imported from, & exported to the said Colonies, communibus Annis, on a medium of three years from Christmas 1714 to Christmas 1717.

And forasmuch as the trades to Africa & Madeira may be accounted branches of the plantation trade, the returns of the Goods exported to those countries being generally sent from thence in Negroes & wine to the Plantations; we have included the amount thereof in this account.

But having enquired upon this occasion into the valuations of the aforesaid goods, we are informed, that Tobacco, sugar, & some other of the Plantation products are over rated; the

prices of those commodities having been considerably reduced since the valuations were adjusted in the books of the Inspector General of the Customs, from whence this is drawn; however, as we have not the same objection to the valuations of our manufactures & products, we shall lay the same before your Majesty, upon the foot it now stands.

From this Account it will appear, that the plantations in America take from hence yearly to the value of one million sterling, in British products & Manufactures, & foreign goods.

And although the exports charged in this account to the several Colonies on the continent, amount to no more than £431,027. 16^s. 5^d yet as the Continent has undoubtedly a great share in the General article of entry to the West Indies, as well as in the articles of entry to Africa and the Madeiras, the exports to the Continent may well be computed at £500,000.

But before we enter into the particular circumstances of the plantation trade on the Continent, it will be necessary to ascertain the principal commodities, wherein their trade consists, & how much they respectively amount to; which will appear, Account N^o 2.

It may be observed from this Account, that the exports to the Continent of America exceed the imports from thence about £200,000 per annum; which debt falls upon the provinces to the Northward of Maryland; who probably are enabled to discharge the same, by the trade they are permitted to carry on in America, & to Europe, in commodities not enumerated in the Acts of Trade, as may be gathered from a State of their Shipping & Tonnage hereunto annexed, N^o 3, 4 & 5. although the same is not so perfect as it might otherwise have been for want of returns from the proprietary Governments.

Besides the advantages accruing to Great Britain from so large an exportation, to the Colonies on the Continent of America; from whence, as hath been already shewn, there doth arise a balance of £200,000 Sterling; it is to be observed, that your Majesty's revenue of the Customs is very considerably increased by this trade; that great part of the commodities, which we receive from thence are such, as we should otherwise be obliged to take from foreign markets: & that there is a very great profit arising from the re-exportation of such of the said Plantation commodities to foreign Markets, as are not expended at home.

Our home consumption of Tobacco only, may be computed at 8,175,226 pounds weight per Annum. And the tobacco re-exported 17,142 755 ditto per annum, as may appear by the Account N^o 6, wherein the sugars, as well as the tobacco imported & exported for five years, from Christmas 1712 to Christmas 1717. are distinctly stated. And we have the rather chosen to join them, because they are the two staple commodities of the Islands, & of the Continent whose interests are inseparable, nor would it be possible to support the Sugar Islands, without the assistance of the Continent.

There still remains to be considered another great advantage that arises to this Kingdom from the plantation trade, which is, the constant employment it gives to our British Shipping

The number & tonnage of the Ships cleared from England for His Majesty's Dominions in America, & for Africa & Madeira, in three years, from Christmass 1714, to Christmass, 1717, is as follows.

Cleared in the said three years for

	Ships	Tons	Medium of the Tonnage Per annum
New England.....	240	20,276	6,758½
New York.....	64	4,330	1,413½
Pennsylvania.....	55	5,429	1,809½
Maryland.....	108	17,651	5,883½
Virginia.....	340	47,009	15,669½
Carolina.....	92	8,008	2,677½
For the Continent.....	899	102,728	34,242½
Barbadoes.....	347	37,810	12,616½
Antigua.....	111	11,092	3,697½
Montserrat.....	25	1,770	590
Nevis.....	33	2,963	987½
Saint Christopher's.....	30	3,170	1,056½
Jamaica.....	162	22,913	7,637½
Bermuda.....	4	160	53½
For the Islands.....	712	79,917	26,636
West Indies.....	123	16,687	5562½
Hudsons Bay.....	7	732	244
Total for the Plantations.....	1741	200,064	66,688½
For Africa.....	92	10,823 }	8,899
Madeira.....	181	15,875 }	
In all.....	2,014	226,762	75,587.
That is, communibus annis.....	671	75,587.	

And whereas there were cleared from this Kingdom, on a medium of the said three years ending at Christmass 1717. for all foreign parts.

British Ships.....	5663, tons 419,681.	} Per Ann.
Foreign ditto.....	330, ditto 17,446	
In all.....	5,993 437,127	

it is evident, that the Shipping employed annually in the plantation trade only, was more than a sixth part of the whole tonnage for that time from the several Ports of England to all foreign Countries.

But, computing that the other five-sixth parts of the said Shipping may be employed (a little more or less) as follows, one Sixth, in the trade to Spain, Portugal, the Streights, Canaries, East India, Newfoundland, and Archangel;

One sixth to Denmark, Norway & the Baltick;

Two sixths, to Germany, Holland, Flanders and France &

One sixth to Ireland and the other British Islands; & it being obvious, that the Ships employed in the trades near home make two or three voyages, whilst the Ships bound to the plantations are performing one,

It is very probable, that the trade which is carried on between England and the American plantations, employs at least, one fourth part of the Shipping annually cleared from this kingdom.

And upon casting up the tonnage of the plantation products re-exported in the year 1717, it appears there was employed near half as much Shipping, in transporting these goods from

hence to Germany, Holland, & other foreign countries, as was employed in the trade directly from the British Colonies in America.

Consequently therefore it may be concluded, that about one third part of the Shipping employed in the foreign trade of this Kingdom is maintained by the plantation trade.

But notwithstanding the advantages, at present arising from the Plantation trade, are so very considerable, it is not to be doubted, but that they might still be rendered much more useful, if sufficient encouragement were given to induce them to turn their industry to the production of Naval Stores, of all kinds, & of such other commodities as our necessities require, & which are purchased by us with great disadvantage from foreign Countries; from whence this convenience, amongst many others, would naturally result.—That the more Northern Colonies would be thereby enabled to pay their balance to England, without lying under the necessity of carrying on a trade to foreign parts, in some respects detrimental to their mother Kingdom.

No. 1.

The total value of the Imports from				The total value of the Exports to			
£	s	d		£	s	d	
187,059	00	00	..... Antigua.....	30,855	19	9	
364,557	6	10	..... Barbadoes.....	140,697	14	5	
332,266	00	10	..... Jamaica.....	147,931	5	6	
34,485	5	9	..... Montserrat.....	4,921	11	6	
85,078	15	6	..... Nevis.....	12,729	10	00	
98,772	18	5	..... St Christophers.....	11,182	7	1	
1,102,219	7	4		318,818	8	3	
65,016	7	2	..... New England.....	139,269	14	6	
22,607	16	4	..... New York.....	50,314	6	6	
5,051	7	00	..... Pennsylvania.....	20,176	11	2	
92,675	10	6	..... Virginin & Maryland.....	209,760	15	2	
250,994	10	6	..... Carolina.....	198,276	4	9	
38,906	16	1		22,987	16	6	
PLANTATIONS							
382,576	17	1	..... On the Continent.....	431,027	16	5	
1,102,219	7	4	..... On the Sugar Islands.....	348,318	8	5	
5,391	17	00	..... West Indies in general.....	96,986	6	2	
412	19	6	..... Bermudas.....	1,396	3	3	
6,898	6	10	..... Hudson's Bay.....	1,951	6	2	
1,495,499	7	9	..... Plantations.....	879,680	00	3	
27,236	12	9	..... Africa.....	87,315	16	11	
4,960	14	8	..... Madeira.....	81,427	7	1	
1,527,696	15	2	..... Total.....	1,018,523	4	3	

No. 2

The principal imports from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia Maryland, and Carolina, are as follows.

	£	s	d	
In skins & furs.....	17,340	14	10	Products of the Indian Trade.
Turpentine.....	12,082	19	5	
Pitch and tar.....	31,990	00	00	of the sd Plantations.
Train oil.....	7,680	18	7	
Whalefins.....	3,679	14	3	
Tobacco.....	236,588	18	1	
Rice.....	19,206	18	4	of foreign Plantations of Campeche
Sugar, brown.....	9,834	7	3	
Logwood.....	21,060	6	4	
	362,461	17	1	
In all other Goods.....	20,112	00	00	
The total import according to the aforesd Genl account.....	382,576	17	1	per annum
But the Tobacco being overvalued about.....	80,000	00	00	
The said import cannot amount to more than.....	302,576	17	1	per annum

No. 2.

And the principal exports to the said provinces are as follow

	£	s	d
IN BRITISH MANUFACTURE & PRODUCTS,			
Woolen Manufactures.....	147,438	11	7
Silk wrought & thrown.....	18,468	7	1
Linnens & sail cloth.....	11,464	9	00
Corlage.....	11,284	5	9
Gunpowder.....	2,392	15	5
Leather wrought, & saddles.....	15,161	12	6
Brass & copper wrought.....	2,565	6	7
Iron wrought & nails.....	35,631	13	6
Lead & shot.....	2,850	9	3
Pewter.....	3,687	6	11
In many other goods.....	43,911	5	6
	294,886	3	1
IN FOREIGN GOODS,			
Linnens.....	86,413	00	00
Callicoes.....	10,102	4	00
Prohibited East India Goods.....	10,523	12	9
Wrought Silks.....	1,189	11	1
Iron & Hemp.....	6,152	5	11
In other foreign goods.....	21,760	19	9
	136,141	13	6
Foreign Goods.....	136,141	13	6
British Goods.....	294,886	3	1
	431,027	16	7
The said Exports amounts to according to the aforesd general account (per annum).....	431,027	16	7
But as it has been always mentioned, the total export might probably amount to at least (per annum,).....	500,000	00	00

No. 3.

In three years from 24th June 1714, to the 24th June 1717, there was cleared from Boston, the chief port in the Province of Massachusetts Bay.

Ships, Sloops & other vessels		Tons.	Men.
495	For the British Islands in the West Indies	27,831	3,830
58	Foreign Plantations	2,597	393
23	West Indies	1,335	175
45	Newfoundland	1,835	274
23	Europe	1,865	210
34	Madeira, Azores, &c.	1,690	256
678		37,153	5,118
143	Great Britain	11,956	1,412
390	British Plantations on the Continent	11,589	1,883
25	Bay of Campeche for Logwood	1,075	221
11	To ports unknown	415	63
1217	The total in three years	62,788	8,697
415	That is, Communibus annis	20,929	2,809
N. B.—1,199 of the aforesaid 1217 ships and vessels, containing 58,152 tons, were plantation built			

No. 4.

In the said three years there were also cleared from the Port of Salem, in the same Province.

Ships Sloops &c.		Tons	Men.
59	For the British Islands in the West Indies	2296	328
2	Surinom	75	10
10	West Indies	394	46
117	Europe	9,122	1,152
9	Madeira Azores &c.	421	59
197		12,218	1,595
4	Great Britain	208	29
31	British Plantations on the Continent	1,065	158
232	The total in three years	13,431	1,782
77.	That is, Communibus Annis	4,477	594

No. 5

And from New York there were cleared, in three years, from 24th June 1715 to 24th June 1718

Ships, Sloops &c.		Tons	Men
63	To Great Britain	4,382	638
205.	British Plantations on the Continent	4,234	897
250	British Plantations on the Islands	8,776	1,904
9	Newfoundland	395	67
85	foreign plantations	2595	603
21	Madeira, Africa &c.	1395	282
9	Europe	615	122
645	Total in three years	22,392	4,513
215	That is, Communibus Annis	7,464	1,504

No. 6.

SUGAR, BROWN.	Imported Cwts.	re-exported Cwts.
In 1713	501,528	181,201
1714	512,235	157,036
1715	617,414	142,701
1716	681,378	101,519
1717	762,735	289,994
In the said five years.....	3080,290	934,451
or Communibus annis.....	616,058	186,890
Remained for consumption.....		429,168 pr Ann.
The total Annual Import.....		616,058 as aforesaid.

No. 6.

TOBACCO.	Imported Tb wt.	Re-exported Tb wt.
In 1713	21,598,807	16,597,796
1714	29,261,091	19,650,216
1715	17,810,861	13,479,110
1716	28,316,088	16,601,441
1717	29,600,653	19,385,186
In the said five years.....	126,589,906	85,713,779
or Communibus annis.....	25,317,981	17,142,755
Remained for consumption.....		8,175,226 pr Ann.
The total Annual Import.....		25,317,981 as aforesaid.

MISSISSIPPI.

The French nation, having always been desirous to extend their dominions in America, have lost no opportunity of encroaching upon their Neighbours there. And although your Majesty & your Royal Ancestors have an uncontested right as well by discovery as possession, to the several British Colonies in America; yet the french Kings have at sundry times made grants thereof to their subjects. Such were the letters patents of Louis the 13th in favour of the french West India Company, bearing date the 29th of April 1627; & those of Louis the 14th to Mons^r Croisat some time since surrendered to the united India Company of france, upon which they build their title to the Mississippi. Many other instances of the like nature might be given were they necessary to the present purpose, but these two, which comprehended almost all your Majesty's dominions in America, may be sufficient to shew the unlimited inclination the french have to encroach upon your Majesty's territories in those parts.

However, as the french are convinced, that a Charter without possession, can never be allowed by the law of nations to change the property of the soil; they have employed another artifice; and without embarrassing themselves about former discoveries, made by the subjects of other Princes have built small forts at the heads of Lakes & rivers, along that vast tract of land, from the entry of the river of S^t Lawrence to the embouchure of the Mississippi, into

the bay of Mexico; not so much with intention probably to bound their own territories, as to secure what they have already got, till a more favorable juncture shall give them occasion to make further intrusions upon their neighbours. And if the late war in Europe, where the allies made so successful efforts against the exorbitant power of France, had not found Louis the 14th employment at home, it is very likely the French would have been much more formidable than they are now in America. Notwithstanding the treaty of neutrality for those parts made at London in 1686, ought to have secured to Great Britain the several Colonies, whereof your Majesty's Royal predecessors stood possessed at the time of making the said treaty, but the little regard the French have to that treaty, will evidently appear by the evasions & frivolous pretences set on foot by their ministers during the debates in the year 1687 at London, when the Lords Sunderland, Middleton, & Godolphin were appointed by King James to confer with the then French Ambassadors Mons^r de Barillon, & the Sieur Dussou de Bonrepeaux concerning the boundaries of the Hudson's bay Company, & although that Conference terminated in a Confirmation of the aforesaid Treaty of neutrality, together with a resolution of settling the boundaries between the English & French colonies in America, by proper Commissaries, which resolution has since been enforced by the 10th Article of the treaty of Utrecht; yet the French could never be induced to enter sincerely upon so necessary a work, notwithstanding Commissaries were lately appointed for that purpose, & met with others, deputed by the French Court, at Paris.

It is therefore very apparent from these transactions, that there remains no way to settle our boundaries, but by making ourselves considerable at the two heads of your Majesty's Colonies, North & South, & by building of forts, as the French have done, in proper places, on the inland frontiers.

The French territories in America extend from the mouth of the River St Lawrence, to the embouchure of the Mississippi, forming one continued line from North to South on the back of your Majesty's plantations, & although their garrisons, in many parts, are hitherto but very inconsiderable, yet as they have, by the means of their Missionaries, debauched several of the Indian Nations to their interest, your Majesty's subjects along the continent have the utmost danger to apprehend from this new settlement, unless timely care be taken to prevent its increase.

But this will be the proper subject of another part of this Report; & therefore we shall at present proceed to give your Majesty an Account of the forts the French have built, & the settlements they have made to secure their communication; of the several routs they have practised from Quebec to the Mississippi; of the Indian nations in those parts, whom they have gained over to their interest, and of those who still remain friends to your Majesty's subjects.

And as the most perfect account we have of these particulars, was transmitted to us some time since, by Mr Keith, the present Governor of Pennsylvania, we hold ourselves obliged upon this occasion to acknowledge how much we are indebted to his exactness & application therein.

It is evident from Father Hennipen & La Salles travels, that the communication between Canada & Mississippi is a very late discovery; & perhaps such a one, as no nation, less industrious than the French, would have attempted; but it must be allow'd that they have a great advantage over us in this particular, to which even the nature of their religion and government do greatly contribute; for their Missionaries in blind obedience to their superiors, spend whole

years in exploring New Countries; and the encouragement the late french King gave to the discoverers & planters of new tracts of land, do far exceed any advantage your Majesty's Royal Predecessors have hitherto given to their subjects in America; and as your Majesty's European dominions have long been burthen'd with the expense of two successive wars, the Parliament of Great Britian have hitherto only been able to assist the Plantations with a very sparing hand; altho' considering the great Revenue they bring your Majesty in your Customs, & the vast importance they are of to the trade & navigation of these Kingdoms, it is now to be hoped they may be thought worthy of greater attention.

And indeed had this matter been sooner considered, the french dominions had never been extended from North to South through the whole Continent of America. For your Majesty's subjects, who had much greater convenience of discovering & making treaties with the Indian nations, on the Lakes, which lie so contiguous to the back of the British Settlements, might effectually have prevented this communication which may prove highly inconvenient to the trade & welfare of your Majesty's Colonies.

However, it is not even yet too late to think of applying a remedy; nor will it be at all impossible to interrupt a rout, which your Majesty may perceive by the following detail, hath many natural obstructions, & could never have been rendered practicable without the greatest industry.

From Mount Real, on the River St Lawrence, the french generally sail in canoes about three leagues to the falls of Saint Louis, where they are obliged to land, & travel about half a League, before they embark again, in order to row up the stream. About 60 leagues further, to Fort Frontenac situate on the North side of the river, at the entrance of the Lake Ontario, where they have a Garrison consisting of one or two Companies, from thence they proceed on the said Lake reputed about 80 leagues in length, to the great fall of Niagara, which lies between the lakes Ontario and Erie, where they are obliged to travel over land again about three Leagues, before they enter the lake Erie, which is about 130 leagues in length.

From this lake to the Mississippi they have three different routes. The shortest by water is up the river Miamis, or Ouamis, on the South west of Lake Erie; on which river they sail about 150 leagues without interruption, when they find themselves stopt by another landing, of about three leagues, which they call a carrying place, because they are generally obliged to carry their canoes over land, in those places to the next river, & that where they next embark is a very shallow one called La Riviere de portage; hence they row about 40 leagues to the river Oubach, & from thence about 120 leagues to the River Ohio, into which the Oubach falls, as the river Ohio does about 80 leagues lower into the Mississippi, which continues its course for about 350 leagues directly to the bay of Mexico.

There are likewise two other passages much longer than this, which are particularly prick'd down in Hennipens map, and may be described in the following manner.

From the North east of Lake Erie to a fort on the Lake St Clair, called Pont Chartrin is about 8 Leagues sail; here the french have a Settlement, & often 400 traders meet there. Along this Lake they proceed about seven leagues further & thence to the great Lake Huron about ten leagues; hence they proceed to the straits of Michillimackinack 120 leagues Here is a Garrison of about thirty french, and a vast concourse of Traders, sometimes not less than 1000, besides Indians, being a common place of rendezvous. At & near this place the Outarwas, an Indian nation, are settled.

From the lake Huron they pass by the Straight Michillimackinack four leagues, being two in breadth, & of a great depth, to the lake Illinois; thence 150 leagues on the lake to fort

Miamis, situated on the mouth of the river Chigagoe; from hence came those Indians of the same name, viz^t Miamis, who are settled on the forementioned river that runs into Erie.

Up the river Chigagoe they sail but 3 leagues to a passage of 1th of a league; then enter a small Lake of about a mile, and have another very small portage, & again another of two miles to the river Illinois, thence down the stream 130 leagues to Mississippi.

The next rout is from Michillimackinack on the lake Illinois to the lake de puans 90 leagues, thence to the river puans 80 Leagues, thence up the same to a portage of about 4 miles before they come to the river Owisconsinag, thence 40 leagues to Mississippi.

These distances are as the traders reckon them; but they appear generally to be much over done, which may be owing to those peoples coasting along the shores of the lakes, & taking in all the windings of the rivers.

They have another much shorter passage from Mount Real to Lake Huron, by the french river on the north of Saint Lawrence which communicates with the two latter routs; but it abounds with falls, & therefore it not so much used. They have also by this river a much shorter passage to the upper Lake, or Lake Superieur.

The french have at all times, used their utmost endeavours to bring over the Indians to their interest; & the missionaries have been so successful in this point, that they have seduced some part of the Iroquois, commonly called by the name of the five nations, from their ancient friendship & dependence on your majesty's colony of New York; & although provision was made by the 15th Article of the treaty of Utrecht to prevent the like inconveniencies for the future, yet experience hath shewn that such treaties made with the french, as cannot be afterwards executed without their assistance, are likely to prove ineffectual. We would therefore follow their example in this particular, & lose no time, at least in securing such of the Indian nations, as are not already in league with them.

Of this sort are the Miamis, settled upon the river of the same name, which runs into the Lake Erie, & are about 2,000 in number. The gaining of this Nation to the British interest, would be of very great importance; and as we are informed, might be done by settling a trade with them & building a small fort upon the Lake Erie, where the french, in 1718, had no settlement; what they have now is not as yet come to our knowledge, though in all probability they have, or will soon begin to build one there. This will appear to be the more necessary, when we shall consider, how many Indian Nations, on the back of the British settlements, the french have already gained to their interest.

The Illinois are about 3,000 men, on or near the river of that name.

The Ottoways, or Michillimackinacks were formerly 3,000 but now scarce 500.

The Nokes.....	100
The Felles avoins.....	200
The Sakes.....	200
The Puans.....	600.

All these joined the french against the five nations in the late war, & all of them, except the Miamis, are seated about or near to the Lake Illinois, which is now commonly called by them Michigan, and on the rivers that run into it, & on the Lake Puans, & the River Illinois.

On the Mississippi, & the branches of it, there are many great nations, especially to the West, as the Missouriis, Ozages, Acansias, (different from those of Acansa on the East) with many more, not less, as is affirmed than 60,000 men; with all whom it is said the french have peace or some alliance.

On the other hand, all the English to the northward of Carolina have, not 1500 fighting men in their interest to be depended on, except the 5 nations;—in New England & Connecticut they have very few; in New York only the river Indians, besides the five nations;—in Jersey & Pennsylvania, their own or home nations, called Delawares, are exceedingly decreased and being in subjection to the five nations, take their rules from them;—in Maryland & Virginia, there are very few, except those to the South-west, whom Colonel Spotswood with great industry has lately gained by treaties & hostages.

Those of Carolina, & the nations lately in friendship with them, have been very numerous, but are not so at present; the french having made great encroachments in those parts, and gained many of the Indians there over to their interest.

Thus, by one view of the Map of North America, Your Majesty will see the danger your subjects are in, surrounded by the french, who have robbed them of great part of the trade they formerly drove with the Indians, have in great measure cut off their prospect of further improvements that way, & in case of a rupture, may greatly incommode, if not absolutely destroy them by their Indian Allies. And although the British Plantations are naturally fortified, by a chain of Mountains, that run from the back of South Carolina, as far as New York, passable but in few places; yet should we not possess those passes, in time, this would rather prove destructive than beneficial to us.

CONSIDERATIONS

For Securing, Improving & Enlarging your Majesty's Dominions in America.

Having laid before your Majesty the state of your Plantations on the Continent, having observed the importance their trade is to these Kingdoms, & shewn how much they lie exposed to the incursions of their European neighbours, & of the Indians in their Interest; what further remains is, that we should humbly offer to your Majesty's consideration such methods as have occurred to us, for securing, improving & enlarging so valuable a possession, as that of your Majesty's dominions in America; which we conceive might most effectually be done—

1st BY TAKING THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT THE ENCROACHMENTS OF THE FRENCH, OR OF ANY OTHER EUROPEAN NATION,

2^{dly} BY CULTIVATING A GOOD UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATIVE INDIANS,

AND LASTLY, BY PUTTING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PLANTATIONS UPON A BETTER FOOT.

In order therefore to secure your Majesty's colonies from the encroachments of their European neighbours in America, whereof we receive daily complaints from the several Governors on the Continent, it will be highly necessary to begin, by fortifying the two extremities to the North & South.

This will appear the more necessary, when it shall be considered, how much the french have strengthened their settlements in the neighbourhood of Nova Scotia & Carolina, whilst your Majesty's subjects, either through neglect or misfortune, are much weaker in these two provinces, than any other part of America.

It has been already observed, that there are not above two British families in all Nova Scotia, beside the Garrison of Annapolis, consisting of at present, only six companies of 34 men, each, but there are still near 3000 french inhabitants remaining in this province, who, contrary

to the treaty of Utrecht, refuse to take the oaths of Allegiance to your Majesty, & in combination with their countrymen at Cape Breton, are daily instigating the native Indians not only to commit insults upon your Majesty's subjects, fishing upon the Coast of Nova Scotia but even to set up a title to the whole province, in opposition to your Majesty's right.

The french likewise pretend, that only the peninsula of Acadia (hardly one third part of Nova Scotia) was yielded to the Crown of Great Britain by the treaty of Utrecht; and notwithstanding this pretence is sufficiently refuted in the former part of this report, by comparing the Charter to Sir William Alexander, the first proprietor of Nova Scotia, with the article of Cession in the treaty of Utrecht; yet from these unreasonable cavils, & time of profound peace & friendship between the two Nations may be collected, how desirous the french, are to make themselves masters of this province, which they may easily overrun on the first rupture, the same being in a manner already surrounded by their settlements at Cape Breton, Long Island, and Quebec.

In our humble opinion, therefore, no time should be lost in putting of this province into a better posture of defence; & we humbly beg leave to repeat our proposal of sending of four regiments of foot to Nova Scotia.

Without some assistance of this nature, it will be in vain to think of settling Nova Scotia; for planters will never fix, where they can have no security for their persons or effects, but whenever this main point shall be sufficiently provided for, it is to be hoped, so fertile a Country will not want inhabitants. All reasonable encouragement however should be given to adventurers to settle there; & in some former reports to your Majesty, we have humbly offer'd it as our opinion, that it would be greatly for your service that the present inhabitants of Newfoundland should be engaged to quit that place, where they drive a trade prejudicial to the fishery of Great Britain, and settle in Nova Scotia, where they may be useful to this Kingdom.

We shall not trouble your Majesty with the repetition of the particulars mentioned in former parts of this representation concerning the fortifications proposed to be erected on the Coast of Nova Scotia; but shall beg leave in general to observe, that bays and harbours should be secured, & some forts built in proper places for the protection of your Majesty's subjects fishing upon the Coast.

In that part of this report, relating to the french settlements, we have taken notice, that nature has furnished the British Colonies with a barrier, which may easily be defended, having east up a long ridge of mountains between your Majesty's Plantations & the french settlements, extending from South Carolina to New York; but there are doubtless several passes over these Mountains, which ought to be secured as soon as they shall be discovered; and we had the honour not long ago to recommend to your Majesty's approbation a proposal for fortifying the passes on the back of Virginia. In our opinion all possible encouragement should be given to discoveries & undertakings of this nature; for if all the passes over this ridge of Mountains are not secured, your Majesty's subjects will be liable to the insults of the french, and of the Indians under their influence, who are very numerous.

But although these Mountains may serve at present for a very good frontier, we should not propose them for the boundary of your Majesty's Empire in America. On the contrary, it were to be wished, that the British Settlements might be extended beyond them, & some small forts erected on the great Lakes, in proper places, by permission of the Indian proprietors; & we would particularly recommend the building of a fort on the Lake Erie,

as hath been proposed by Colonel Spotswood, your Majesty's Lieu^t Governor of Virginia, whereby the french communications from Quebec to the River Mississippi, might be interrupted, a newtrade opened with some of the Indian nations, & more of the natives engaged in your Majesty's interest.

There will be the same reason for erecting another Fort at the falls of Niagara, near the Lake Ontario, Mr Burnet your Majesty's Governor of New York, hath already formed a scheme for this purpose, which we hope he may be able to execute, by the consent & assistance of the Senecas, one of the five Indian Nations dependent on your Majesty, to whom the soil belongs.

But because these Lakes be at a very great distance from the Settlements already made by your Majesty's subjects, to secure intermediate stages, a third fort might be built at the head of Potomack River; which divides Virginia from Maryland, & a fourth at the head of Susquehann River, which runs through Pennsylvania, into the Bay of Cheseapeake.

Carolina likewise being the Southern frontier of your Majesty's Plantations, and lying much exposed to the incursions both of the french & Spaniards, as well as to the insults of the Indian demands your Majesty's immediate assistance and protection.

It would be for your Majesty's service, that the heads & embouchures of all rivers through this province should be secured. And in our humble opinion, a less force than four regiments of foot will not be sufficient for the protection of your Majesty's subjects there; especially considering how many places will require garrisons: For besides those already mentioned under the head of Carolina, it will be highly necessary, that three others should be erected on the Savannah, Catahooche, & Hagologe Rivers; for at Palachakolas, on the Savannah River, the french had formerly a settlement, in the time of Charles the Ninth, & intend to settle there again, if not prevented.

A fort on Catahooche River would secure a communication with the bay of Apolatche, & another on Hagologe River might not only interrupt the communication of the french settlements, but likewise give your Majesty's subjects an opportunity of gaining the Cherokees, a warlike nation and the only Indians of consequence in those parts, that have not already made peace with the french.

We are very sensible, that this proposal will be attended with expense; but we hope it may be fully justified by the necessity thereof, for the preservation of the British Colonies in America.

IN RELATION TO THE INDIANS.

The second particular, wherein your Majesty's interest is highly concerned, with respect to the trade & the security of the British Plantations, is that of cultivating a good understanding with the Native Indians, as well those inhabiting amongst your Majesty's Subjects, as those that border upon your Majesty's dominions in America; and herein at all times hath consisted the main support of our french neighbours, who are so truly sensible, of what consequence it is to any European nation, settling in America, to gain the natives to their interest; that they have spared no pains, nor cost, or artifice to attain this desirable end; wherein it must be allowed, that they have succeeded, to the great prejudice of your Majesty's subjects in those parts, having debauched, as hath already been observed some parts of the five nations bordering upon New York from their Ancient league & dependence on the Crown of Great Britain.

For this purpose their Missionaries are constantly employed, frequent presents are made to the Sachems or Kings of the several Nations, & encouragement given for intermarriages between the french & natives; whereby their new Empire may in time be peopled, without draining france of its inhabitants.

It was for this reason, that, in the draught of Instructions for the Governor of Nova Scotia, we took the liberty of proposing to your Majesty that proper encouragement should be given to such of your Majesty's subjects as should intermarry with the native Indians; and we conceive it might be for your Majesty's service that the said Instructions should be extended to all other British Colonies.

Your Majesty & your Royal Predecessors, have frequently made presents to the Indian Chiefs, more particularly to those of the five nations; but as the same have always hitherto been a charge upon the Civil list, which is generally overburthened, so those presents have not been very regularly or seasonably sent to America; & consequently many opportunities of improving the British interest in those parts, must have been lost, for want of them; for which reason, it is to be hoped, that more exactness will be had in this particular for the future.

It is likewise much to be lamented, that our zeal for propagating of the Christian faith in parts beyond the seas, hath not hitherto much enlarged the pale of the British Church amongst those poor infidels, or in any sort contributed to promote the interest of the State in America; but as it is not so immediately our province to propose any thing particular upon this head, we can only wish, that the same may be hereafter put upon a better foot.

There is however one other method left for gaining the good will of these Indians, which providence has put into our hands, and wherein the french could not possibly rival us, if we made a right use of our advantage, & that is, the furnishing of them, at honest & reasonable prices, with the several European commodities, they may have occasion for, but even this particular, from the unreasonable avarice of our Indian traders, & the want of proper regulations, has turned to our detriment, and instead of gaining us friends, has very probably created as many enemies.

But as we are entirely of opinion, that the Indian trade, if fairly carried on, would greatly contribute to the increase of your Majesty's power & Interest in America, we should humbly propose, that the same may be put under as good regulations, as the nature of the thing will admit, for on the successful progress of this trade the enlargement of your Majesty's dominions in those parts doth almost entirely depend, in as much as all the Settlements, that may at any time hereafter be made beyond the Mountains, or on the Lakes, must necessarily build their hopes of support much more upon the advantage to be made by the Indian trade, than upon any profits to arise from planting at so great a distance from the sea.

This trade then ought by all possible means to be encouraged; it ought to be equally free in all parts, to all your Majesty's Subjects in America, & all monopolies thereof discouraged, that no one Colony, or sett of people whatsoever may engross the same, to the prejudice of their neighbours.

All your Majesty's Governors, in their respective governments, should use their utmost endeavours to prevent the traders from imposing upon the Indians; upon complaint of any injustice done them, cause satisfaction to be made, and, upon all occasions, shew the utmost resentments against the offenders.

And that your Majesty's subjects may be the more easily induced to extend this trade as far Westward, upon the lakes & rivers behind the Mountains, as the situation & ability of the respective Colonies will permit; forts should be built, & garrisons settled in proper places to protect them.

It would likewise be for your Majesty's service, that the several Governors of your Majesty's plantations should endeavour to make treaties & alliances of friendship with as many Indian Nations as they can; in which treaties all your Majesty's subjects should be expressly included; all the Indian Nations, in amity with your Majesty's subjects, should, if possible, be reconciled to each other; & all traders should be instructed to use their endeavours to convince the said Indians, that the English have but one King, & one interest.

And if any Indian Nation, in league or friendship with any of your Majesty's Colonies, should make war, plunder, or any way molest any other Indian Nation, in friendship with the same Colony, Your Majesty's Governors should use all possible endeavours to oblige the said Indians to make satisfaction for their breach of faith to the party aggrieved.

And that all the Governors of your Majesty's plantations may be informed of the state of every other Government, with respect to the Indians, it will be necessary, that every governor upon his making any treaty with any Indian nation, should immediately communicate the same to all other your Majesty's Governors upon the Continent.

We are likewise of opinion, that it might be convenient to imitate the french, in sending home some chiefs of the most considerable Clans or nations, to whom they take care to shew the Glory & splendor of the french nation in Europe, that the said Indians may, upon their return, instill the greater respect for them among their countrymen.

All which particulars would, in our humble opinion, much conduce to the securing of the natives in your Majestys Interest, & to the enlargement of your frontiers in America.

IN RELATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PLANTATIONS.

The Laws & constitutions of your Majesty's Colonies are copied from those of Great Britain, but fall short of them in many particulars; some of which have however from time to time been corrected & amended by your Majesty's Instructions to the respective Governors of the different Colonies under your Majesty's immediate government; and they might be rendered still more perfect, if your Majesty's Commands met with due obedience in the proprietary & Charter Governments.

This is the great obstacle, which has hitherto made it impracticable to put the plantations in general upon a better foot; & therefore we shall beg leave to mention some of those inconveniencies, that have arisen from the large powers & privileges, subsisting by virtue of several Charters, granted by your Majesty's Royal Predecessors; whereby not only the soil, but likewise the dominion or Government of several Colonies is absolutely alienated from the Crown, to certain proprietors, who far from employing the said powers & privileges to the use for which they were designed, as we find by former reports from this board, have frequently refused obedience to such orders as have been given by your Majesty's Royal Predecessors; have broken through the laws of trade & navigation; made laws of their own, contrary to those of Great Britain; given shelter to pirates and outlaws, & refuse to contribute to the defence of the Neighbouring Colonies under Your Majesty's immediate Government, even in cases of the greatest emergency, altho' they would not have been able to subsist themselves without the assistance of their neighbours.

And although, in justice to some of the proprietary Governments, it must be allowed, that they are not all equally involved in this charge; yet certain it is, that great inconveniencies do arise from so many different forms of Governments, & so many different interests on the Continent of America; nor is it to be expected, that either our Indians or European neighbours should pay that respect to your Majesty's subjects, which all those who have the happiness to

be under Your Majesty's protection, might otherwise reasonably hope for, until it shall appear, that all the British Colonies in America hold immediately of one Lord, & have but one joint interest to pursue; for which reason, & many others, we shall first humbly propose, that all the proprietary governments should be re-assumed to the Crown, either by purchase, agreement, or otherwise, as conceiving this to be one of those essential points, without which your Majesty's colonies can never be put upon a right footing:

It might likewise be further observed upon this head, that some of the Proprietary and charter Governments have shewn too great an inclination to be independent of their Mother kingdom, & have carried on a trade destructive to that of Great Britain, wherein they might undoubtedly be more effectively restrained, if they were all of them under your Majesty's immediate government, & were by proper laws compelled to follow the commands sent them by your Majesty: & it hath ever been the wisdom, not only of Great Britain, but likewise of all other states to secure, by all possible means, the entire, absolute, & immediate dependency of their colonies.

On the other hand, it were but just to consider the planters, whatever Governments they may live under, as your Majesty's subjects; and that in all reasonable things, not prejudicial to the interest of Great Britain, they should be favoured & encouraged, more particularly in the raising of Naval Stores of all kinds, whereby they may greatly advantage themselves, & contribute to render their Mother Kingdom absolutely independent of all the Northern powers; & that their religion, liberties & properties should be inviolably preserved to them.

We have already had a very successful proof of what due encouragements produce, in the particulars of pitch & tar; which at present are made in as great perfection in your Majesty's plantations, as in any other part of the world, & in such plenty, as will enable us to supply foreign parts, since it hath reduced the common price of those Commodities one third of their former cost within the space of a very few years, whereby the importation of pitch & tar from the Baltick is greatly decreased, & much money saved in the balance of our trade. Nor is it to be doubted, but iron, flax, hemp, & all sorts of timber, might likewise be had from your Majesty's plantations, with the same success, upon sufficient encouragement whereby the trade & navigation of these realms would be highly advanced, & the plantations diverted from the thoughts of setting up manufactures of their own, interfering with those of Great Britain, & from carrying on an illicit trade with foreigners; but we shall have an opportunity of explaining ourselves more particularly upon this head, in a separate representation to your Majesty relating to such further premiums as we conceive necessary for promoting so useful a design.

Your Majesty's revenues, arising from the quit rents reserved upon grants of lands made by your Majesty & your Royal Predecessors, bear no proportion to the extent of your Majesty's territories in America; for such has been the improvident management in this particular, that whole provinces have been granted without any, or upon very small reservations to the crown; & the Governors of your Majesty's colonies, who are by their Commissions & Instructions usually empowered to make grants of lands, have frequently abused their authority herein, by making exorbitant grants to private persons, & the small quit rents, that have been reserved, have not been so punctually collected & accounted for, as they ought to have been: The registers of such Grants being very imperfectly kept & no due obedience paid to your Majesty's Auditor of the plantations. There are likewise other abuses practised in the manner of taking up lands, whereby the grantees preserve their claim, whilst your Majesty is defrauded of your quit-rents, the lands remain uncultivated, & the industry of the fair planter is discouraged.

To prevent these abuses, it may be necessary for your Majesty's service, that the Governors of your Majesty's Colonies on the continent should for the future be restrained from making grants, without reservation of the usual quit-rents to your Majesty; & from making any grants exceeding 1000 acres to any person in his own, or any other name in trust for him; and that all grants, hereafter to be made, should be void, unless the land granted, or at least two thirds thereof, be cultivated within a certain term of years to be fixed for that purpose.

That no person should be allowed to hold any lands, for which a patent hath not been actually passed, either under the seal of the respective plantation, or the great Seal of this Kingdom, & that all persons petitioning for the future, to take up lands, should be obliged, upon allowance of such petition to pass a patent for the same within the space of six years, & pay the usual duties due thereon to your Majesty; in default whereof, the said allowance to be void, & the land to be grantable to any other person.

That an exact register be kept of all grants already made or to be made; that the quit-rents arising therefrom be duly accounted for to your Majesty's Auditor of the plantations; And that likewise all money whatsoever levied in your Majesty's name, in any of your Majesty's Colonies be accounted for to the said Auditor; which we the rather mention, because some of the Northern provinces (particularly that of New York, have of late refused to account with your Majesty's Auditor, for monies raised by their Assemblies; which is a practice detrimental to your Majesty's authority, & tends to the shaking off that dependency, which they owe to your Majesty & to their mother Kingdom.

The preservation of the woods in America, which hath hitherto been much neglected, is another particular of very great consequence to your Majesty's service; inasmuch as the same might prove an inexhaustible store for the Royal Navy of Great Britain. And although several Parliaments have been so sensible of the importance of this Article, that laws have been made in England for this purpose, yet the daily complaints from America are a proof how ill these laws are executed, & how little regard is paid to your Majesty's Commission & Instructions to your Surveyor General of the Woods; which is not so much to be wondered at, considering the present Surveyor only acts by Deputy, no ways qualified for that employment, although so extensive a trust would require the constant attendance of a capable & well experienced officer, & ought not to be left to the management of a Deputy.

But the many inconveniencies, that arise from the granting of Offices in the plantations to persons acting by Deputy there, may deserve your Majesty's animadversion; and we would humbly propose, that no offices in the plantations may be granted for the future, without an express clause in each patent, obliging the grantee to attend & discharge the duty of his office in person.

We beg leave further to observe, that the laws at present in force for the preservation of your Majesty's woods, are very defective, for the exception therein made, whereby liberty is given for the cutting of timber growing upon the lands of several persons, hath given rise to many pretensions for destroying timber fit for the service of the Royal Navy; wherefore we would humbly propose, that further provision should be made, by Act of Parliament in Great Britain, for ascertaining your Majesty's right to the woods, & the boundaries thereof.

But the most effectual way to put in execution what we have already offered upon this subject to your Majesty's consideration, & to render the several provinces on the Continent of America, from Nova Scotia to South Carolina, mutually subservient to each others support, will be to put the whole under the Government of one Lord Lieutenant, or Captain General,

from whom all others Governors of particular provinces should receive their orders, in all cases, for your Majesty's service, & cease to have any command respectively in such province, where the said Captain General shall at any time reside, as is at present practised in the Leeward Islands, where each Island has a particular Governor, but one general over the whole.

The said Captain General should be constantly attended by two or more Councillors deputed from each plantation, he should have a fixed Salary, sufficient to support the dignity of so important an employment, independent of the pleasure of the Inhabitants; and, in our humble opinion, ought to be a person of good fortune, distinction & experience.

By this means, a general contribution of men or money may be raised upon the several Colonies, in proportion to their respective abilities, & the utility of this proposal is so evident, that we shall not trouble your Majesty with any further reasons to enforce the same; but in case your Majesty should be graciously pleased to approve thereof, we shall take a further opportunity of explaining, in what manner it may best be executed.

But we humbly crave leave to inform your Majesty, that it will be further necessary for your service, that whoever presides at this Board, may be particularly and distinctly charged with your Majesty's immediate orders, in the dispatch of all matters relating to the Plantations, in such manner, as the first Commissioner of the Treasury, & Admiralty, do now receive & execute your Majesty's commands; with whom the Captain General, & all other Governors of your Majesty's Plantations, may correspond.

We the rather mention this, because the present method of dispatching business, relating to the Plantations, is liable to much delay & confusion; inasmuch as there are at present no less than three different ways of proceeding herein; that is to say, by immediate application to your Majesty by one of your Secretaries of State; by petition to your Majesty in Council, & by representation to your Majesty from this Board; from whence it happens, that no one Office is thoroughly informed of all matters relating to the Plantations; and sometimes orders are obtained by surprize, disadvantageous to your Majesty's Service; whereas if the business of the Plantations were wholly confined to one Office, these inconveniencies would be thereby avoided.

All which is most humbly submitted.

Whitehall
Sep^r 5. 1721

J. CHETWYND
P. DOEMNIQUE.
M. BLADEN.
E. ASHE.

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