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White, William,	Private.	White, Randolph,	Sergeant.
Waggoner, Peter,	“	White, John,	Private.
Wood, Charles,	“	Workman, Conrad,	Sergeant.
Wheel, Jacob,	“	Wemate,	Private.
Wilkerson, William,	“	White, Laden,	“
Wray, Thomas,	“	Williams, Zachariah,	“
Ward, Lewis,	“	Williams, Daniel,	“
Williams, George,	“	Wilson, John,	Sergeant.
Winsor, Christopher,	“	Wray, Thomas,	Private.
Wheeler, John,	“	Yates, Isaac,	“
Waddington, John,	“	Young, John,	Sergeant.
Wright, William,	“	Zuckledz, William,	Private.
Wethers, Benjamin,	“	Zimmerman, Frederick,	“
West, John,	“		

Virginia and the Act of Navigation.

[The first of the general acts of Parliament, known as the Navigation Acts, was passed by the Rump Parliament in 1661. It provided that no merchandise either of Asia, Africa or America, including the English plantations there, should be imported into England in any but English built ships, and belonging either to English or English plantation subjects, navigated, also, by an English Commander, and three-fourths of the sailors to be Englishmen.

When Virginia surrendered in March, 1651, to the Commissioners of Cromwell, it was expressly stated in the seventh article of the terms of submission that the people of the colony should have “free trade as the people of England do enjoy to all places and with all nations according to the laws of that Commonwealth.” (1 Hen. 366.) That the Virginians insisted upon this privilege is shown by Act IX of the Assembly, that met in March, 1659-60, which required that every master of a vessel reaching Virginia should give bond six days after his arrival, that he would not molest any ship in the jurisdiction of the colony. The motive of this act was declared in its text to be, that “the masters of many vessels had of late years, contrary to the privileges granted us by our articles of surrender, to have free trade with all nations in amity with the people of England,” seized foreign ships, sloops and vessels which had come to trade with the Virginians. In 1653, however, the ship *Leopoldus*, of Dunkirk, was confiscated by the colonial authorities on the ground that it had violated the Navigation

Act. (1 Hen. 482.) This was probably a Dutch ship which either had carried tobacco from Virginia to England, or which designed doing so. There are indications that the Virginians did not at first, at least, enjoy an unrestricted trade with the Dutch. When Governor Stuyvesant, of New Amsterdam, proposed in 1653, to enter into a commercial alliance with Virginia, he was informed that the authorities of the colony, before assenting to his proposition, must first consult the English Council of State.

Whatever the privileges as to an absolute free trade enjoyed by the Virginians during the Protectorate of Cromwell, the second Navigation Act, passed at the beginning of Charles the Second's administration, placed them upon the footing of all the other English subjects. The first clause of that act prescribed that "no goods or commodities whatsoever should be imported into or exported from any of the King's lands, islands, plantations or territories in Asia, Africa or America, in any other than English, Irish or plantation built ships, and whereof the master and at least three-fourths of the mariners shall be Englishmen, under forfeiture of ships and goods." The thirteenth clause provided "that no sugar, tobacco, cotton, wool, indigo, ginger, fustie and other dyeing woods of the growth or manufacture of our Asian, African or American Colonies, should be shipped from the said colonies to any place but to England, Ireland, or to some other of his Majesty's said plantations, there to be landed, under forfeiture of goods and ships."

The harshness of this law in relation to Virginia is obvious at a glance. The subjoined paper is a very able protest against the evils that were expected to result from it, anticipating in spirit, the arguments of Adam Smith in opposition to the restrictive mercantile system of the eighteenth century. It was written by John Bland, a merchant of London, and presented by him to the authorities in England as a memorial "on behalf of the inhabitants and planters in Virginia and Maryland." Bland expended large sums in Virginia, amounting to as much as ten thousand pounds sterling, or two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in our American currency. He had acted as the London merchant of many of the Planters of Virginia and Maryland, and was therefore thoroughly familiar with their interests as this paper very plainly shows. The original Memorial is now filed among the Colonial Records in the British State Paper Office in London.]

TO THE KINGS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The humble Remonstrance of John Bland of London, Merchant, on the behalf of the Inhabitants and Planters in Virginia and Mariland.

Most Humbly representing unto your Majesty the inevitable destruction of those Colonies, if so be that the late Act for en-

crease of Trade and shipping be not as to them dispenc'd with: for it wil not onely ruinate the inhabitants and Planters, but make desolate the largest fertilest, and most glorious Plantations under Your Majesties Dominion; the which, if otherwise suspended, will produce the greatest advantage to this Nations Commerce and considerablest Income to Your Majesties Revenue, that any part of the world doth to which wee trade.

And that the prejudice which this act bringeth to those Colonies may appear to your Majesty, I shall presume to desire that the following particulars in order to the discovery thereof may be taken into consideration, as it hath reference to the Territories of *Virginia* and *Mariland*, and then to those persons that first were the promoters of the same, for debarring the Hollanders trading to those Plantations, in the long Parliament, with their specious pretences alleged for the obtaining thereof, which are as followeth.

First, That the Hollanders will not permit us to trade into their Indian Territories, therefore we should not admit them to trade in ours.

Secondly, That the Hollanders admission into *Virginia* and *Mariland* spoiled our commerce, not onely there, but in *England*, and hindred the increase of our shipping.

Thirdly, That the Hollanders trading into those colonies lessen'd our Customes here in *England*.

Before I come to show how invalid the Pretences of the aforesaid persons be, as to the intent for which they were alleged, being onely colourable, and to hinder the Hollanders trade thither, that they might still keep the trade which they had ingrossed in their own hands.

First, I will say something concerning the Persons that did solicit and procure the prohibition of the Hollanders from trading into those Plantations.

Secondly, Wherefore the said Act against the Dutch was procured by them, and is still sought to be continued.

Thirdly, I shall take into consideration those three Motives, or Pretences, urged by the Ingrossers of the *Virginia* and *Mariland* trade, for the debarring the Hollanders from trading thither; and so speaking to each of them, demonstrate plainly, that what is alleg'd thereby to be an advantage to those Colonies,

is quite contrary, and will in time utterly ruinate them, the commerce, or customes, and shipping here in England.

To the First, concerning the Persons that Procured the prohibition of the Hollanders from trading into *Virginia* and *Mari-land*, I give account of them.

They are no Merchants bred, nor versed in foreign ports, or any Trade, but to those Plantations, and that from either Planters there or whole-sale Tobacconists and shopkeepers retailing Tobacco here in England, who know no more what belongs to the commerce of the World, or Managing new discovered Countries, such as *Virginia* and *Mariland* are, than children new put out Prentice; can it then be Rational, that such persons judgments should be taken or relyed upon for passing so important an Act?

To the second Particular, Why these men procured this Act, prohibiting the Hollanders trade into those Colonies at first, and its continuance now, was, and is, because they would keep still in their own hands that Trade which they had ingrossed, and have no body come there to hinder them, and that for the following reasons.

First, That for whatever goods they carried out of *England* to those Plantations, the Inhabitants should pay them what prices and rates they please to require, else they should have nothing at all of them to supply their necessities.

Secondly, To force the Planters to deliver them such Tobaccos, which by the labour and sweat of their browes they had made, at the rates they themselves trading thither would have it, whereby they got that oftentimes of the poor Planters for a halfpenny, which they made us pay for here in *England* by Re-taile three or four shillings.

Thirdly, That if they could not yet get the Planters Tobaccos at their own rates, but that the Planters would ship it themselves for England, then would not the Traders thither let the Planters have any Tunnage in their ships to *England*, except it were at such high freight, as the Tobacco comming for *England* could never yield what would satisfie the same; so that if they could not get the Planters Tobacco for nothing in the country, They would have it for nothing when it arrived in *England*.

Fourthly, That seeing the Hollanders could not go to *Virginia* and *Mariland*, the Traders thither might carry it to Holland

from those colonies themselves, and so get (besides having the Tobacco for little or nothing of the Planters) the Duties the Hollander used to pay in the Country for what he expected thence; and also the custom, which ought by their own rule to have been paid in *England*.

By which I hope its apparent, that it was nor is not their love to the Plantations, the commerce or to encrease the Duties in *England*, that caused them to seek the Hollanders prohibition from *Virginia* and *Mariland*, but their own private interests, not regarding if the colonies and all in them perished, so they might keep the said Trade still; surely then such men are not meet Judges for debarring of the Hollanders from trading to those Plantations.

To the third Particular wherein, it is to be considered, how destructive those three motives and pretences for the obtaining this Act of prohibition to the Hollanders from trading to *Virginia* and *Mariland* are to those Colonies, the commerce, and your Majesties customs here in *England*, I declare as followeth. To the First, in which it is alleged, That being* the Hollander permits not us Trade in their Indian Dominion, why should we admit him Trade in ours?

A good reason it were, and justly retaliated, if *Virginia* and *Mariland* were stoared with and did produce such rich commodities as those Territories do, out of which the Hollanders doe debar us Trade, or that those our Plantations were inhabited with such ingenious men as theirs be, into which they wil not suffer us to trade.

But seeing *Virginia* and *Mariland* have no such rich commodities, nor ingenious people to produce them, nor plenty of anything but what may be had everywhere, is it not then a madness to hinder the Hollanders or any else from trading thither? Shall we, to put out one of their eyes, lose both our own? I do hope it will be more seriously considered, and not by following the humor of a few covetous, ignorant, self-seeking men destroy so many thousands of Your Majesties subjects plant'ed in those parts, and thereby lose the best and hopefulest Plantation that belongs to this Nation; but permit the Hollanders, or any other

*[Seing?]

Nations that will to trade thither, until *Virginia* and *Mariland* be capable to maintain it self by it self; then, and not till then, will it be convenient to debar Foreiners from trading thither.

The second Motive alledged for the obtaining this Act against the *Hollanders* trading to *Virginia* and *Mariland*, is, that it hinders our Trade, not onely there, but in *England*, whereby the general commerce is, and our Shipping are decreased.

To explain this, and to shew, that the promoters of the *Hollanders* prohibition from trading to *Virginia* and *Mariland*, by reason of their ignorance and unexperiencedness in the negotiations of the world, are very unfit for States-men, and to make Laws for whole Nations, when most of them *them* have never been farther than in their own shops and Ware houses wherein they were bred; so that certainly it's hard for such, especially that mind onely their own profit and interest, to set Rules for others in those things which they understand not; but with grief in may be spoken, that though the sluggishness and sloathful neglect of our most experienc'd men in this Nation, and their unwillingness to take pains, or to appear in publick business, which chiefly may be attributed for their not being encouraged and countenanced, do thereby give too much leav to hairbrain'd Ignorance to obtain that which doth not onely overthrow themselves, but the most ingeniouesest men, and our whole Nation, whereby, and that deservedly, all perish together.

Therefore before I proceed to the next particular, I pray that the State of *Virginia* and *Mariland*, as they now are in may be considered.

Virginia and *Mariland* are colonies, which though capable of better commodities, yet for the present affoord onely these, Tobacco chiefly, then in the next place Corn and Cattel, commodities almost in every country whatever to be had; withall they are such commodities, that except purchased in those Plantations so cheap as not else-where so to be had, none would ever go thither to fetch them, no not we our selves. Which being so, then certainly it cannot stand with wisdom to hinder the *Hollanders* from going thither, for unlesse what is there produced be fetched from thence, the Planters will have little encouragement to manure the ground, or trouble themselves to take so much pains as they do, for what, when obtained, they know not what to do there-

with. Doth it not then hence appear, that unless as some plant, others go to buy what is planted, there can be no trade or commerce in such a place? Seeing what the commodities of *Virginia* and *Mariland* are is it not a great advantage to those Colonies to have then by every body fetched thence? and on the contrary, must it not needs be a disadvantage to the commerce there, not to do it? If therefore then we debar the Hollanders from going thither, see the inconveniences that will arise thereby.

The Hollander began to plant Tobacco in his own Territories, as soon as the Act for their prohibition from Virginia and Mariland in the long Parliament was obtained, will he not proceed to plant greater quantities, and so totally supply himself by his own labour? do we not force him to this ourselves, and so thereby cut off our own trade? will he, after accustomed to the Tobacco of his own growth, ever regard that which is in *Virginia*? will he ever afterwards be induced to fetch it thence, when he finds his profit nigher at home? and will he ever buy that of us, when by passing so many hands, and so much charge contracted thereon, is made so dear, that he can have it cheaper in his own Territories? (surely no) Therefore it clearly appears, that being so, of necessity we must lose that Trade and Commerce.

And if it be alleged, the Tobacco planted in Holland is not so good as what comes from *Virginia*, none will buy Gold too dear, and being used once to bad, the best is not regarded; what grows in Holland for present spending is as good as any. Have we not in this Nation by reason of the dearness and Sophistication of *Virginia's* Tobacco, accustomed our selves so to *Virginia*, that little Spanish, though much better, is spent amongst us at this day? And certainly, experienced men will say, it is, and will be the overthrow of our Trade and commerce, to put any people upon necessities to seek that out in their own Territories, which we will not let them have from us, but with excessive cost and charge; which if it were otherwise to be had of us at easie rates they would *would* not so much as think thereof to plant it themselves, of which, many experimental examples may be shown in order thereunto.

Again, If the Hollanders must not trade to *Virginia* how shall the Planters dispose of their Tobacco? the English will *will* not buy it, for what the Hollander carried thence was a sort of To-

bacco, not desired by any other people, nor used by us in *England* but merely to transport for *Holland*. Will it not then perish on the Planters hands? which undoubtedly is not onely an apparent loss of so much stock and commoditie to the Plantations, who suffer thereby, but for want of its employment, an infinite prejudice to the commerce in general.

Then again, If you keep thence the Hollanders, can it be believed, that from *England* more ships will be sent than are able to bring thence what Tobacco *England* will spend? if they do bring more, must they not lose thereby both stock and Block, principal and charges? the Tobacco will not vend in *England*, the Hollanders will not fetch it from England; what must become thereof? even flung to the Dunghil. Is not then this a destruction to the commerce? for if men lose their Estates, certainly trade cannot be encreased.

A farther prejudice doth evidently attend the commerce by this Act, not onely in debarring Hollanders from trading to those colonies, but thereby we do likewise debar ourselves; for by the Act, no English Ships can load any goods in *Virginia* and *Mariland* to transport to any country but our own Territories; Is not this absolutely against the very essence and being of Trade and commerce, and cuts off all industry or ingenious designs, and is in a manner quite against, and contrary to the intent of the Act it self, which I conceive is to find out a means, that the Hollanders cheap sailing should not overthrow our markets, our shipping going dearer set to sea than theirs?

Which I explain thus, a ship having loaden herself in *Virginia* and *Mariland*, with Tobacco, Beef, Pork, and Corn, must bring these commodities to *England*, or into other our Territories; being landed in *England*, is not the Hollander, arriving in that place, where those Goods are so landed, as free to buy them of the Importer as any other Merchant of *England*, that would transport them in our own ships? they then both going to one Market, hath not the Hollander the same advantage he ever had? and do what we can *we can* in such a case, will under-sell us. Is not this then a prejudice to the commerce, and gives the Hollanders that very benefit which we strive to keep from him.

Now as this is a prejudice to the commerce of *Virginia* and *Mariland*, so in the like it will hold in all our American Planta-

tions; but I am, and it is my business at present onely, to plead for *Virginia* and *Mariland*, and to show its disadvantages to those colonies; Will not this contract a great deal of needless charges and hazardous voyages, and that upon such goods and commodities as *Virginia* and *Mariland* aboard, which will not keep in long and tedious voyages? doth it not hereby then appear to be an absolute hindrance of trade and commerce, not onely to those places, but to ourselves here in *England*?

I demand then, If it would not be better to let our English ships, loading in those colonies, when laden, to go whither they please, and pay in the places where they do lade, (if it will not be dispenced with otherwise) the same customs to your Majesty as they should have done in *England*, or give Bills from thence to pay it in *England*? certainly this would be more beneficial to the commerce, and security both for the ships and goods and advantageous to your Majesty; for whilst they are coming to *England* they might be at the end of their intended voyages, and obtain a Market, which haply in *England* could not be had; and with the proceeds of those very goods return for *England*, and there produce more advantage to your Majesties customes, when as otherwise by making a double voyage run a hazard to lose all, so that by what herein hath been said, I hope it will appear, our commerce is rather hindred than furthered.

Then, as concerning our shipping, I shall briefly show, that the debarring the Hollanders thence doth no way encrease them.

The Hollanders never from *Virginia* and *Mariland* fetched anything else but Tabacco; neither do our English ships that sail thither ever go full loaden, as few as we send.

Therefore if the Hollanders go not thither, but plant Tobacco in their own Territories, whereby they will not need ours, we shall not send ships to *Virginia* and *Mariland* to fetch thence what we cannot again dispose of; so that we shall employ no more ships to those colonies than will fetch so much Tobacco as will vend in *England*. How is it possible that this then can decrease or increase our ships, when as, when the Hollanders traded thither, we brought no less into *England* than we do now, nor when they trade not shall we bring the more?

Doth it not plainly appear, that foreign Nations trading into a country make the people industrious, and their industry makes

that Nation rich, and so by wealth comes countries to be inhabited, which increases Trade, and the more trade the more need of shipping to manage it? so that I am of the judgment, that the freer foreign Nations be admitted to those colonies, it will the more increas Navigation that way, and the contrary will lessen it: For if once the Inhabitants be destroyed and ruined, where is your trade? and then, how shall we employ our shipping? Having by the foregoing reasons shewed how those colonies will suffer, in debarring the Hollanders trade thither, and increase, if admitted, both as to the commerce and shipping; In the next place I come to the third Motive or pretence urged, for prohibiting the Hollanders trading to *Virginia* and *Mariland*, under this notion, that your Majesties customes thereby would much suffer & be lesned.

This would be true, and to be allowed, if we could force the Hollanders to fetch all the Tobacco they spent out of *England*, and that it were not to be had but in those Plantations; but we see the contrary, its to be had in all the parts of *America*, that are seated by any European people; In *France* great quantity is planted yearly, and of late years meerly by our debarring them going to our Plantations; the Hollanders, as I said before, have planted such store, and will, if continued from going thither, plant daily more and more, that they will not need it from any other place: so that the Hollanders not fetching it from *Virginia* or *Mariland*, nor our Traders bringing it to *England*, it must perish in the country; or if brought into *England*, and not able to bear its charge, nor finding vend, it will undoubtedly rot in the Warehouses. Which way then shall our customes increase by the Hollanders not trading into those Colonies?

I am sure upon the first obtaining this Act in the long Parliament, our Traders to *Virginia* and *Mariland* carried the Tobacco from those colonies directly to Holland themselves, and neither paid Duties in the country, nor in *England*, and so they would so still if permitted; wherein it is apparent, its their own interests that is sought after; for the custom, let the Hollanders trade thither or not, will be the same in *England*, and rather increase than decrease if they be permitted to trade thither; for as the colonies increase, they will grow to better husbandry, and so by

the production of better commodities make our customs the greater.

Having run through those three grand Pretences of the Traders to *Virginia* and *Mariland*, for the Hollanders prohibition from trading thither, I hope it will clearly appear, that the debarring the Hollanders from going to those Plantations doth not at all advance our commerce, or your Majesties customes, but on the contrary, will utterly ruinate the colonies commerce and customes together in a short time; for if the Inhabitants be destroyed, of necessity the Trade there must cease. I demand then in the next place, which way shall the charge of the Governments be maintained, if the Hollanders be debarred trade in *Virginia* and *Mariland*, or anything raised to defray the constant and yearly Levies for the securing the Inhabitants from Invasions of the Indians? how shall the Forts and publick places be built and repaired; with many other incident charges daily arising, which must be taken care for, else all will come to destruction? for when the Hollanders traded thither, they paid upon every anchor of Brandy, which is about 25 Gallons, 5s. Import brought in by them, and upon every Hogshead of Tobacco carried thence 10s and since they were debarred trade, our English, as they did not, whils't the Hollander traded there, pay anything, neither would they when they traded not, and yet they the Tobacco directly for *Holland*; so that all these charges being taxed on the poor Planters, it hath so impoverished them, that they scarce can recover wherewith to cover their nakedness. As Foreign trade makes rich and populous any country that hath within it any staple commodities to invite them thither, so it makes men industrious, striving with others to gather together in Societies, and building of Towns, and nothing doth it sooner than the concurrence of shipping, as we may see before our eyes, *Dover* and Deal what they are grown unto, the one by the Flanders Trade, the other by ships riding in the Downs. Withall, Strangers will be brought to Rules and Orders when they come to other Princes Territories, which Natives are not so soon brought unto especially our English, that except they be forced unto that which is for their advantage, they will not admit it, ever repëining to be lyable to any Rule, be it never so good.

So that except the Hollander be permitted to trade to *Virginia*

and *Mariland*, it will never flourish or come to anything, nor never have Town or Village in any part thereof propagated or built; for our English trading thither send no more ships than they need to fetch thence what Tobacco our Nation spends; and for it they run stragling all the country over, abiding in no settled place, which will never bring to perfection anything; to the wonderment of ingenuous men, that a country so well seated and furnished with all manner of delights and provisions of Land and Water, should be so much slighted and disregarded.

Further, it may be ascertained, that except there be some order or care taken, that a particular place be assigned for all commerce, and shipping to come to, and go from, in those colonies, there never can be any encouragement for handicrafts men, or ingenious artists to settle, or reside there; and in case they might be by some means induced thereunto, would it not be a sad thing, that after all their industry and pains taken to produce anything worthy of regard, and more valuable than Tobacco, corn, or cattel, to have it left to the *to the* mercy of a few Tobacconists, and ignorant men, that know not how to prise or value the same, but to make a prey of them, as they have already done by ingrossing their Tobacco, and give them onely what they please for such commodities?

If that notwithstanding what is by the foregoing particulars declared, it may seem reasonable, that the act shall stand in force against those colonies of *Virginia* and *Mariland*, and that the Hollanders and all other foreign Nations, that would go thither, shall be prohibited;

Then let me on the behalf of the said colonies of *Virginia* and *Mariland* make these following Proposals which I hope will appear but equitable; and I dare undertake for them, that they will be very well satisfied, that those few Tobacconists that have ingrossed that Trade into their hands, shall still continue in it without moving further against them therein.

First, That the Traders to *Virginia* and *Mariland* from *England* shall furnish and supply the Planters and Inhabitants of those colonies with all sorts of commodities and necessaries which they may want or desire, at as cheap rates and prices as the Hollanders used to have when the Hollander was admitted to trade thither.

Secondly, That the said Traders out of *England* to those colonies shall not onely buy of the Planters such Tobacco in the colonies as is fit for *England*, but take off all that shall be yearly made by them, at as good rates and prices as the Hollanders used to give for the same, by Bills of Exchange or otherwise, when the said Hollanders and Dutch were permitted thither to trade.

Thirdly, That if any the Inhabitants or Planters of the said colonies shall desire to ship his Tobacco or goods for *England*, that the Traders from *England* to *Virginia* and *Mariland* shall let them have freight in their ships at as low and cheap rates, as they used to have when the Hollanders and other Nations traded thither.

Fourthly, That for maintenance of the Governments, raising of Forces to withstand the invasions of the Indians, building of Forts, and other publick works, needful in such new discovered countries, the Traders from *England* to pay there in *Virginia* and *Mariland* as much yearly as was received of the Hollanders and Strangers as did trade thither, whereby the country may not have the whole burden to lie on their hard and painful labour and industry, which ought to be encouraged but not discouraged.

Thus having proposed in my judgment what is both just and equal, to all such as would not have the Hollanders permitted to trade into *Virginia* and *Mariland*, I hope if they will not agree hereunto, it will easily appear, it is their own profits and interests they seek, not those colonies, nor your Majesties service, but in contrary the utter ruine of all the Inhabitants and Planters there; and if they perish, that vast Territory must be left desolate, to the exceeding disadvantage of this Nation, and your Majesties Honor and Revenue.

Now to have all parties pleased, the Traders to *Virginia* and *Mariland*, and the Inhabitants and Planters, and that all may be done for your Majesties glory and advantage, without loss to any;

By way of Accomodation this I propose, Let all Hollanders and other Nations whatsoever, freely trade into *Virginia* and *Mariland*, and bring thither and carry thence whatever they please, and to counterpoise the cheapness of their sailing, with

dearness of our ships, to pay a set Duty and Imposition that may countervail the same; and when what they paid formerly will not do it, let it be doubled and trebled, as shall be thought meet, yet still with this caution, that it may not make it as bad as if they were totally prohibited.

In the next place, that all *English* ships that do go thither to trade, and carry goods to any other country besides *England*, may be freed of any custome there, more than some certain Duty to the use of the colonies; for as it is before expressed, the proceed of those goods vended abroad, will countervail at their return to *England* to your Majesty twice the custome that should have been paid, did they come directly from those colonies to *England*.

This being so settled, those colonies will flourish, their respective Governors and Governments will be maintained without charge to your Majesties Exchequer, the people will encrease, and by the bringing all trade to certain select places, riches will abound, Artists go over, Your Majesties Dominions will be enlarged, the customes there and *England* advanced, the commerce made splendent, and all particular persons that are concerned as well as publick receive their contentments; otherwise onely destruction must attend and be the portion of those colonies.

I have already in a few printed sheets of mine, entituled, *Trade reviv'd*, which I presume to deliver to your Majesty, declared the value of those colonies of *Virginia* and *Mariland*, and what advantages they will yield to this Nation, if encouraged as in folio 10 to B, of the said Book appears, therefore I shall here say no more therein; but on the contrary, if the Hollanders and Dutch be prohibited trading thither, they will come to nothing.

And being *Virginia* was upon its last legs, as we here were, when it pleased Almighty God by a like miracle, their Governor, under the late usurped Power dying, by an unanimous consent of the colonies *Sir William Bartlet** was restored to the Government, his worth being so well known to them, in which happiness, by your Majesties most gracious confirming him therein, they are made more happy, his fitness for that Government being such, as few, if any there be, can parallel.

* Sir William Berkeley is meant.

For as much then as God hath so wonderfully freed those colonies, as he hath also freed us, from their Egyptian Task masters, and given them their antient Governors as at the first, whereby they be in hopes to enjoy not onely their liberty, but their wonted trade with all Nations, and so recover out of that languishing distemper in which they were; shall they, after so long suffering, and expectation of relief, be made more miserable now than ever, and that by an established Law, meerly obtruded on them by a few covetous and self-interested men, Tobacconists and ingrossers of that Trade?

God forbid.

Having therefore as briefly as I could, and the matter required, in reference to those colonies, Remonstrated to your Majesty, both their grievance by reason of the said Act, debarring them foreign Trade; as also the advantage that will arise to them the commerce, and your Majesties Revenue, if admitted, and the Act suspended, It is left to your Majesties pious consideration to do therein as shall be most meet, by

Your Majesties most Loyal and
Obedient Subject

JOHN BLAND.

Discourse of the Old Company.

[The subjoined Discourse, the original manuscript of which is deposited in the British State Paper Office, Colonial Department, volume 3, No. 40, was drawn up and presented in 1625 by request to the Board of Trade and Plantations, by members of the former London Company, which had been deprived, in the previous year, of its chartered rights. From the foundation of the colony at Jamestown, in 1607, until the summary proceedings in 1624, the London Company had administered the affairs of Virginia with the vicissitudes of fortune, so vividly set forth in this Discourse. The authors of this document were evidently smarting from the unjust treatment which they had received at the hands of James I—a treatment entirely consistent with the whole career of that monarch—but the correctness of their statement is borne out by both the old and the new sources of information which we have as to this period.]