

therefore can do no more save truly to represent the whole P. R. O.  
affair to their sacred Ma<sup>ties</sup>

I am Sir  
your Ex<sup>ties</sup> humble servant  
Fr. Nicholson

Gov<sup>r</sup> New York.

[Illegal Trading.]

After Our very hearty comendation complaint having been made to their Maj<sup>ties</sup> by the merchants trading to Virginia and Maryland that their Trade is in a great measure destroyed and ruined by many ships trading directly from Scotland and Ireland to Virginia Maryland and Pensilvania and from thence back to the said places without paying their Maj<sup>s</sup> dues, to the undervaluing Trade to all such fair Traders who observe the Act of Navigation For the prevention as much as may be of such illegal Trade for the future We have received their Maj<sup>s</sup> Commands and accordingly we do hereby signify their Maj<sup>s</sup> Royal will and pleasure unto you that you cause one or more small vessels of about forty tun each to be hired, with skilfull Comanders in those parts for whom you will be answerable and to appoint them to cruise upon the costs of Maryland and Pensilvania with power to examine all ships trading to and from those parts and to inspect the clearings of the said ships in the Collectors Books in order to the discovery of forged Cocquets & Certificats And for the defraying the charge of such vessels and encouragement of the Commander or Commanders thereof You are hereby authorized and empowered to dispose of their Maj<sup>s</sup> third part of the forfeitures upon the Acts of Trade and Navigation and the Penalties recovered on forfeited bonds within your Government in such manner as you shall find most conducing to their Maj<sup>s</sup> service herein And for the better guidance of the Comander or Comanders of such vessels as shall be employed in this Province, you will herewith receive the draught of Instructions which you are to give unto them, and you are from time to time and as often as you shall see convenient to take an acc<sup>t</sup> from the Comander, or Comanders of such vessels of their proceedings in the execution of their Instructions to the intent that under colour of executing the power and directions which shall be thereby given unto them, they do not molest and hinder the legall prosecution of Trade in those parts as well to the prejudice of their Maj<sup>s</sup> Revenue here, as of their Maj<sup>s</sup> subjects in the Plantations and soe We bid you very heartily farewell From the Treasury Chamber at Whitehall the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 1694 in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of their Majesties' reign

Your very loving Friends.