

[Board of Trade to Justices]

To their Excellencies the Lords Justices

B M.  
Bdle. 55

May it please Your Excellencies

In Obedience to Your Excellencies Order of the 23<sup>th</sup> July last annexed to an Extract of a Presentment from the Commissioners of the Customs, We humbly Represent to Your Excellencies that in Our Opinion the constituting Attorneys-General in each respective Plantation as moved for by the Commissioners of the Customes, will be conducing to the ends by them proposed, And that therefore in Order to the putting of that Designe in Execution, we have advised with M<sup>r</sup> Edward Randolph Surveyor Generall of His Majesties Customes in the Continent of America, and are by him informed that William Randolph, the present Attorney Generall in Virginia, is wholly unacquainted with the Laws and practise of the Court in England; That George Plater the present Attorney Generall in Maryland is a favourer of Illegal Trade; That David Lloyd the present Attorney General in Pensilvania has declared that he served for the Province only, and thereupon refused to put several forfeited Bonds in Suit; That Anthony Checkly, the present Attorney General of the Massachusetts Bay is not only ignorant of the Laws of England, but has himself been an illegal Trader; For which Reasons we are also humbly of Opinion That the forenamed persons are not fit to be His Majestys Attorneys Generall, however fitt they may be judged by the Proprietors of any of those Provinces for the places that they have power to dispose of and that it may be expedient for his Majestys service that the Persons following (whom the said M<sup>r</sup> Edward Randolph represents as duely qualified) may be constituted His Majestys Atturnys General for the respective Colonies hereafter mentioned, viz:

For Virginia, Maryland, Pensilvania (as also for North Carolina and West Jersey, where there is at present no Attorney General) Edward Chilton.

For the Massachusetts Bay (as also for Rhode Island and New Hampshire where there is at present none) Thomas Newton.

For New Yorke (as also for East Jersey and Connecticut where there is at present none) James Graham.

These being the only alterations of this kinde for which we have any grounds suggested to us, we omit to mention those