prevailed all over our State from the last Week in June untill the Middle of September, which you know is the time Tobacco is made in. This circumstance, altho' a great Deal was planted has occasioned but a very thin crop —

I wrote you very fully the 20.th of December in answer to your favor of the 6.th of September — Since which Our Navigation both of bay & Rivers has been totally stopt to this time. On the 26.th a very Deep Snow followed by a very Severe frost checkd all us & altho' the weather has been warm for these 9 days ~~last past~~ yet it will be some time before the bay & Rivers will be clear of ice — the latter not having given way yet. — This has kept every thing pretty much in the same Situation as when I wrote you last, all kind of business having been completely at a stand.

By that letter you would find there was ~~little~~ no chance of executing the Commission Sent me by Mess.rs Randolph Jones & Vaughan — Tobacco cannot possibly be at 28/ Currency or near it the ensuing Season, so that a Charter is the Next thing to be aimed at for Your Ship Leviathan & If that is not to be procured, your Directions in that case shall be carefully observed — You Must not expect any other Lumber from this part of the World except Staves — Spars of all kinds & pine plank are Much to high here to think of Shipping, Pitch & Tar we import from North Carolina for our use & bees wax deer skins Potash & Snakeroot Roots to beget. —

In the last Session of Assembly which broke up the last of December, a law was Made, laying a duty of 5/ Currency ℔ Ton upon all British Vessels, & 3 ℔ C.t upon ~~the grant~~ the Value of all goods wares & merchandizes imported in them. — This is done as the Act recites, in Consequence of the proclamation of the King of Great Brittain prohibiting the produce of their West India Islands being brought to America but in British bottoms.

While the Assembly was sitting, a Vessel from London with convicts arrived in Baltimore — the Reason they gave for putting in there, was the want of provisions & water to carry them to Nova Scotia where they were bound originally. This however was only a blind, as the Vessel was Entered, the convicts exposed to sale, and were bought up immediately and at good prices. The Assembly had been previously informed from London that such an Attempt would be made, but they took no Notice of it, and the Laws here respecting the Importation & sale of convicts are Just the same, as before the War. I thought this Much was Necessary, as I hope. If it should be