

1725. § 336 *cont.*]

great objections—an oath imposed on all traders, fine and imprisonment for refusing it, execution in the hands of a sergeant, corporal or common soldier,—the Governor should be instructed to repeal them by a new Act giving proper encouragement to this new channel of trade.

(h) *The merchants' second petition*, also referred to the Committee on 20 July 1725, complains of the printing of the papers by Gov. Burnet, and repeats that if the Acts be suffered to be continued “at least the trade of New York is undone, if the whole interest in America be not fatally affected thereby.” They pray that the Acts be repealed; that, before the Governor be directed to pass another of like tendency, they be heard on the advantages of an open trade; that he be instructed not to pass any such Act for the future; and that forfeitures already exacted under the Acts be repaid.

Received [337.] MARYLAND. *Case of J. Forward, contractor for*
29 Oct. *transporting felons*. Two copies of Forward's petition, one
II. *pp.* fuller than the other: and Order of reference to Committee,
781-5. 4 Nov.

Referred [338.] SOUTH CAROLINA. *Complaints against Gov. Nicholson*.
4 Nov. Petition of merchants and planters (30 signatures). (1) He
III. *p.* 82. has evaded an Order for the repeal of two Acts of 1721 and
1722 for paper currency to the amount of 57,246*l.*, by main-
taining it as part of the general recoinage of all the paper
money, confounding therein the security upon which the
old bills were established. (2) He has presided in the ordinary
lawcourts, overawed judges and juries, and prevented several
lawyers from practising. (3) He has prescribed who should
be elected to the Assembly for Charleston, published reflections
on some of the candidates by beat of drum while the poll was
being taken, and threatened to remove the Assembly and
the lawcourts from Charleston unless his creatures were
chosen. (4) He caused the former petition of the British
merchants against him to be proclaimed by beat of drum,
in order to raise a clamour against them and “veil