

Governor Berkeley, Letter to the King about Silk Production, 1668

Transcription

May it please your Sacred Majestie

Now that the Peace has given us some security that our first fruites of Silke, may come safe to your Majestie. We have with al humble acknowledgements of your majesties gracious Protection us sent it to your Majestie. The Present is smal of it selfe, but the hopes and consequences of this [excelent?] commodity may be hereafter of an inestimable benefit to your Majesties Kingdomes. It is not ful threescore years since france began to make silke Yet this amongst others is one cause of the immense wealth of france. This Country hath both for Clymate and fruitfulness of it, is more proportioned suddenly to produce this admirable Commodity than france can be but for this, flax, and Hempe. We want some able skilful men to instruct us.

With your Majesties gracious permission I wil lay my selfe at your Majesties feet this Yeare, and wil beg leave to goe into france to procure skilful men for this great Worke.

The great god of heaven protect your Majestie and keepe you safe from al your Ennemies of what nature so ever they are, thus for ever shal pray

your sacred Majesties most humble obedient Subject and Servant,

Will. Berkeley

Virg.

July 22

1668

Citation: Gov. Sir William Berkeley to King Charles II, July 22 1668, Public Record Office, Colonial Office Papers 1/23, fol. 42, National Archives, Kew, England (available on Virginia Colonial Records Project microfilm, Library of Virginia).