


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

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May it please your Sacred Maie 42



Now that the Peace has given us some security, that our first
 fruites of Silke, may come safe to your maie: We have
 wth al humble acknowledgements of your Maies gracious Pro-
 tection of us sent it to your Maie: the Present is small
 of it selfe, but the hopes and consequences of this excellent
 Comodity may be hereafter of an inestimable benefit to your
 maies Kingdoms: It is not full thousand years since
 France began to make silke yet this amongst others
 is one cause of the increase wealth of France: this
 Countrey both for the Climate and -fruitfulness of it, is
 more proportioned suddenly to produce this admirable
 Comodity than France can be: But for this, flax and
 Hempe We want some able skilful men to instruct us
 With your maies gracious permission I wil lay my selfe
 at your maies feet this year, and wil beg leave to goe
 into France to procure skilful men for al this great Worke
 The great God of France protect your maie and keep
 you safe from al your Enemies of what nation soever they
 are, thus for your sake pray

Yours July 22
 1668

your sacred maies most humble
 most obedient
 Subject and servant
 Will. Berkeley

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).