

To the hono^rable William Stoughton Esq.^r the Council: and representatives in
 general coucl assembled, the ~~humble~~ petition of Matthew Mayhew representative
 from Marthas Vineyard and James Coffin representative of Nantuckett
 humbly sheweth

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whereas great inconveniences and disturbance hath often happened to the ~
 inhabitants of Dukes Countie, [^]and Nantucket both by the Indians themselves, in smale boates
 Bring rumme sidrs and other strong drink from Rhode Island, and often purchase=
 ing the same on Bord Vefels, coming into the harbo^r. or lying neer the shores of Said ~
 Islands, Hereby Causeing much drunkenness, among the indians, which often ocafions
 disturbance not only to the sober indians, who complaine thereof. but likewise to the
 English, and may prove an ocafion of discord by outrages committed by the indians while
 a great number are in drink. wee pray the same may bee remedied, by some ord^r of
 this great and generall Court, and humbly propose that if an act should be made
 for hindering the importation of anee rumme, sider or strong drink there, in greater
 or less quantities, ~~Except landed at the harbo^r~~ by anee indians on penaltie of forfeiting
 the same and the valu.^e and that the justice of peace in sessions may impower, the severall
 indian Constables to seiz the same, or English Constables, or that by virtue of an act &c, order y^e
 Indian or English constable should have power to seiz such strong drink, and wee humbly ~
 concieve if the one Moyetie bee to the informer and officer that so seiz it may be a great
 meanes to remedee so great an eevel partly alreddy happened & growing dayly uppon
 the said places: having formerly had Experience of the same; which humbly laying
 before this hono.^{bl} Court --- shall alwase pray

[verso:

Mr James Cof[*cut off*]In[*cut off*]

380r

[verso:

380^a.Oct.^o 3.⁶ 1696. In the Houfe of Representatives

Voted That This Hono.^r the L.^t Governo.^r and Council would
 please to take ^{some speedy} Courfe ab.^t the Indians at Marthas
 Vineyard, [^]and Nantucket to prevent the Inconveniences ~~among~~
~~them~~ ^{caused} by the great Quantitys of Sider and ^{other} Strong
 Drink that is brought among them, and fold

unto them there. ~

Penn Townsend Speaker

M.^r

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