

a little doubtfull that he has been induced to return me such an Answer by some who being disappointed themselves have persuaded him that it is not His Ldp's Desire or Expectation that M^r Jennings's Successor should make you a more reasonable Return & Remittance than he did while he remained in that post. Since the Receipt of y^r kind Letter I cannot divest myself of all suspicion that Collo Tasker dealt a little unfairly with me some time since when he told me in Answer to a hint that I dropt to him that he had made no application at all for the Succession of the Secretary's Office. I need not I presume intimate to you what he would expect was His Ldp to appoint him to that place, that you will guess & determine thereon as you shall think proper. You speak in Your Lett^r as if you had sent your Deputation to Col^o Plater but as I could not find any such Parchment or Paper among the Letters I am apt to think it was not inclosed in the Box. The best terms that I could bring him to consent to were as I above observed to pay one fourth of all the Fees annually & the like proportion of w^t money or Presents he should receive on the nomination of County Clerks, such an Agreement I did not conceive myself at Liberty to make & indeed I think that he ought to have offered one third of the Profitts at least. Upon this Acco^t therefore I have declined commissioning him till I can know Y^r farther pleasure, but have engaged him to let the Duty & Business of the Office be executed in the Interim by the Clerk in his name & he continues to enjoy the Naval Office till you & His Ldp shall be pleased to determine thereon. p. 379

He has he says examined into the Benefitts of the place tendered him & finds they amounted in the year 1753 as he has noted in the inclosed paper which he delivered me as it is, in which you will please to observe he has valued Tob^o at 10 Shillings p Cent. I had valued according to the Inspection Law at 12^s 6^d I had estimated the Fees on an Average for five years past he only for one, neither had I allowed for Cask & Shrinkage as he has done; indeed while the Fees are payable in Tobacco these Offices may one Year be twice as valuable as they are another, & if the Inspection Law drops there is reason to fear they will be but very inconsiderable as the Fees will always be paid in the very worst Tob^o & the Marketts will at the same time be much overstocked—

You are pleased to acquaint me that His Ldp desires Recommendation from me of Personages from the Lower House to be now & then preferred to be of his Council of State & that it would be right for me to observe thereon in my publick Letters & that His Ldp also desires the members of the Lower House or their Families may have share of his favours as thereby their Virulency may be abated: I do not know how