

Letter Bk. I.

hopes thereby to retard the General's Progress & recall him to our Defence will prove something more than a Bravado & have issued a proclamation cautioning the Back Inhabitants to be on their Guard & prepared to defend themselves & each other against such Hostilities, & have also sent peremptory Orders to the Officers of the Militia to muster & discipline the Men under their Command, but Alas, we want a Militia Act similar to those of the Northern Governments without which I fear very little Dependance is to be had on our Men in Cases of Emergency & Danger. The inclosed petitions for the Remission of Forfeitures to His Ldp I am intreated to transmit. Mr Bell was a Man of some Fortune & well esteemed in the Country, but Accidents have reduced him in his Circumstances, & at the time he forfeited his Recognizance he dared not appear to seek for or bring the Offender who had been a Labourer of his to the Court for fear of being arrested himself, having not at that time compromised Matters with his Creditors. John Gibson the other Security is recommended as an Object worthy his Ldp's Clemency for the Reasons offered in his petition which with the other I submit to his Ldp's pleasure. The account of the Gross amount of Fees to the Commissarie's Office for one year which is herein transmitted was presented me a few Days since by Mr Dulany who with Mr Tasker had been speaking thereon to me before. p. 129 they tell me the vast Difference & Disparity between this & the Estimate that the Clerk of the Office delivered me last year when Mr Tasker was sole Commissary is owing to the Clerks Error & Mistake at that time who included in the Gross Amount of every year the Insolvencies of the preceeding year, which are always sent to the Sheriff in hopes that he may then be able to recover some of the Debts that were returned insolvent the preceeding year. Mr Dulany told me that finding his Duty in & Attendance to that Office clashed sometimes & interrupted him a great Deal in the performance & pursuit of his private Business as a Lawyer, he begged leave to Resign assuring me at the same time that I should always find him ready to serve His Ldp or myself with his Advice or otherwise, at my Desire he continues his Commission till I receive his Lordship's & your Instructions & Directions thereon---

[Sharpe to Braddock.]

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Annapolis 11<sup>th</sup> June 1755.

Sir  
I am sorry to find myself obliged to address you at this time by the numerous Applications that have been made by the