

Letter Bk. I.  
p. 169

[Sharpe to Calvert.]

Oct<sup>r</sup> 26. 1755—transmitted by M<sup>r</sup> Wayne—

Sir

In my other Letter I have observed that the Arrearages that  
 p. 170 become due on Absentees Lands will be charged in the Agents  
 Books & recovered when such Lands become occupied or  
 shall be sold, perhaps you may ask why are they not attached  
 & sold immediately to satisfy the Arrears of Rents that are  
 due? The reason is that upon such an Attachment the  
 Premises must be valued by a Jury who in this Country  
 would never fail to appraise the Land at much more than it is  
 worth or would sell for so that if His Ldp was to take the  
 Land according to the Appraisement he would very likely  
 have as much to pay to the Owner of the Land as it was really  
 worth. You seem surprized that M<sup>r</sup> Darnal should have  
 known the purport of the Conversation between M<sup>r</sup> Plater &  
 me, you must not wonder at such things as those for I can  
 assure you however secret I desire to keep our Proceedings  
 here, they by some means transpire. Every word that you  
 have dropt before M<sup>r</sup> Harrison or any other of our Gent<sup>l</sup>  
 whom you have been kind enough to receive has been known  
 on their Arrival, & scarcely any thing is said by you relative  
 to His Ldp's Affairs or any Person in the Province but is com-  
 municated to some of our Gent<sup>l</sup> by their Correspondents in  
 London indeed sometimes these Correspondents take the  
 Liberty to send for News what never happened as they did  
 when they advised the Attorney Gen<sup>l</sup> that he was actually  
 appointed to a Seat in the Council & also Naval Officer of  
 Potuxent. I before hinted to you the Cause that M<sup>r</sup> Dulany  
 was not returned a Member at the last general Election of  
 Representatives & that M<sup>r</sup> Key was rejected at the same  
 Election almost on the same Account. They had both in the  
 preceeding Session vehemently opposed & spoke against the  
 p. 171 Bills that were brought into the Lower House ag<sup>st</sup> Papists,  
 this was reported much to their Disadvantage in their respec-  
 tive Counties & much lessened their Interest. M<sup>r</sup> Dulany  
 would have offered himself Candidate for this City, but as his  
 Brother Walter who has represented it many years, & M<sup>r</sup>  
 Bordley had been canvassing. I did not urge him thereto  
 especially as I at that time entertained hopes of his being  
 approved to succeed his Father in the Council. At M<sup>r</sup> Tasker's  
 Request I appointed him joint Commissary, for such an Assist-  
 ant M<sup>r</sup> Tasker told me the Business of the Office requires; As  
 joint Commissary he has principally transacted the Business  
 of the Office, w<sup>ch</sup> must of necessity interfere a great Deal with  
 his Practice as a Lawyer, because he must often give his Advice