

& sit as Judge when he would otherwise be retained by one of the Contending Parties & in the Character of an Advocate receive a good Fee. This being the Case & the whole profitts of the Office not very large, one cannot be very much surprized at his asking leave to resign as I have already told you he sometime since did. He continues as yet to Assist M^r Tasker till I receive your Instructions for appointing some Gentⁿ to succeed him for M^r Tasker cannot (& will not I suppose) undertake to execute the Duties of the Office alone. I shall be glad to make M^r Darnal easy because you desire he should be made so, but I hope he will not be approved of as one of the Council lest it should Occasion great Uneasiness & Dissatisfaction among the People One of the Offices you mention will I hope satisfy his wishes as His being Attorney Gen^l has gained him a good Deal of Practice in the Law for which he was not educated. If ever I see a Probability of carrying such an Act as you desire for the Collection of the Quit Rents you may be assured I will embrace the Opportunity. You seem to apprehend that much Income is lost to his Ldp by his Tenants dividing & selling their Land in seperate Parcells or bequeathing it in Moieties by Testament. As all Wills are returned to & recorded in the Commissary's Office, he makes out & returns to the Rent-Roll Keepers every half year a List of Bequests specifying by whom every Tract of Land was bequeathed & how divided, so that each Share might be charged in the Rent-Roll & Debt Book to the Person to whom it is bequeathed: & as all Deeds of Bargain & Sale are to be recorded in the Courts before they are valid the several Clerks return similar Lists of such Lands as are sold whole or in Parcells to the Rent Roll Keeper & the Lands so alienated are charged in the Rent-Roll & Debt-Books accordingly. It is possible that Lands may sometimes be given away by Deeds of Trust as I observed in my Letter of the 15th Sept^r 1754, but as soon as such a Transaction is discovered a proper Entry is made in the Rent Rolls, & till it be discovered the Rents on the Land so made away remains charged to the old Possessor. As there is room to beleive from your Letter & M^r Stewart's Memorial that that Memorial would not have been presented if M^r Steuart had not been given to understand by M^r Phil Hammond last December that a second Duty of 20/ was about to be imposed, I hope M^r Steuart will rest contented when he finds no such second Duty was imposed & that the Proposal to impose such a second Duty was made an Objection to the Bill by the Upper House; I say on these Considerations & your promise that he has nothing farther to fear after the present Law expires which will be in four or five years, I hope he will make no Objection to pay the £1 a poll

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