

here for such their Transportation, giving Bond to Land them in America; Therefore their pretending a Property of Sale of them for the respective Terms of years they are severally Condemned to Transportation, appears to me Unwarrantable; It being Death to the Convict transported, to return before the Term he or she is transported for is out: Therefore if the Contractor sells a Convict, it is to be apprehended he sells such Convict as if an indented Servant, or as a Servant according to the Custom of the Province agreeable to the Act of the Province. This Sort of Evidence would be right to get connected, in case of any Proceedings against the Officers of Maryland relating to this Duty.

When the Circumstance of Convicts falls under the Consideration of the Assembly, I think the best way to Settle that Point would be to charge the Purchaser on his having a Property by Sale of a Person to him for a Term of years: I told M^r Attorney that Pensilvania and other parts of His Majestys Territories in America charged a Duty on them, he said not to his Knowledge. The Imposition that you observe is on them in Pensilvania and some of the Islands £5. p Pole makes me Imagine is the Reason of Their having got Rid of them. The Contractors for transportation of them, their Complaint is most certainly unreasonable, Considering they sell at £8. and £20 each, sure a good Premium for their Passage and as you Remark cannot complain of a Hard Bargain, Exclusive of the money paid here for their Transportation.—

My Lord Desires you'l Note to M^r Commissary Tasker his Issuing out of his office Regular Lists of Devises for the Completion of Debt Books.—My Lord is desirous of doing any thing for M^r Dulany you shall Recommend to him, and of which he shall not want my friendship for Service to him with His Lordship. I should be glad of a List of the Council.

To The Hon^{ble} Horatio Sharpe Esq^r Lieutenant Governor of Maryland.

[Shirley to Sharpe.]

New York December 30th 1755

Sir

Being ordered by his Majesty in his Instructions to me as Commander in Chief of the Forces in North America not only to Cultivate the best Harmony and Friendship possible with the several Governors of his Colonies upon this Continent but likewise with the Chiefs of the Indian Tribes and for the better Improvement of his Good Correspondence with the said Indian Tribes to find out some fit & Proper Person agreeable to the