

acquiesce & said he would consider on what had been the Subject & purport of our Conversation. As he is lately removed hither I have since had an Opportunity of conversing on this Subject with M^{rs} Young who does not seem much inclined to consent to her Husband's waving his Right to a Seat at the Council, tho as She is desirous of his having a lucrative Employment as well as Honour she joins with him in asking a good Clerkship but as none may possibly become vacant for some time she hopes your Ldp will not be aversc to appointing him in the interim Keeper of the Western Shore Rent-Roll as that being already perfect may be properly kept without any great Difficulty or Skill. Your Ldp will do therein as you may judge best, but if the Naval Office of Potuxent was vacant I think that would be more desirable than either the Rent Roll or a Clerkship & would not disqualify him for being Councillor if your Ldp should choose to distinguish him by that Title. Inclosed I send your Ldp a Copy of my Speech to the Assembly at the Opening of this Session with the Addresses of both Houses in Answer: the Burgesses have voted £40000 for His Majesty's Service, & their Committee have been ever since framing a Bill in consequence of such Vote, so we have been now met five weeks without doing any thing, it is said the Bill will be brought into the House the Beginning of next week but as I hear they have therein inserted a Clause subjecting your Ldp's Mannours to the payment of a Land Tax which is one of the Funds, I do not entertain very sanguine hopes of their doing the Business for which I convened them in such a manner as Common Sense should dictate & their Constituents desire. Governor Morris informs me that His Assembly sat a Month without coming to any Determination or Resolution & then adjourned themselves for a fort-night, he does not seem to expect any thing from them at their Meeting on such Adjournment; & Governor Dinwiddie's Expectations from his Assembly (which is also met) appear I think to be less warm than usual. General Shirley has been pleased since the Assembly met to send me a Commission & Instructions to take the Command of all the Troops that may be raised in these Southern Colonies for an Expedition to the Westward, I have thanked the General for his intended Favour, but as Affairs are at present situated I have forbid him to expect my doing any thing, & intimated to him that while Men, Money, Arms, Ammunition, the smallest Train, Provisions & Credit are wanting his Commission will not much contribute to the Reduction of the French Fort or the Security of our own Frontiers: in truth my Ld the Condition of these Colonies is deplorable, The Enemy see us inactive & naturally hold us in Contempt, the Success the Indians have met with encourages them to

Letter Bk. I.

p. 191