

His Ldp & Yourself as they are to every person in this Country; but be His Ldp's Determination what it will I shall cheerfully submit & always think what he determines right & most proper. I need not I hope repeat my Desire to serve Mr Thomas because I think he deserves to be taken Notice of; I hope an Opportunity will sometime offer & that I shall have it in my power to shew that I have a real Regard for him. If you will please to recur to my Lett^s dated the 14th of Sept^r & 29th Novem^r 1753. You will find that I at that time said as much as Mr Jones pretends to have discovered & more than he can possibly know about the two Branches of Potowmack. As I did not receive Your Favour of the 17th of April 1754 till after Mr Washington's Defeat & till it would have been both dangerous & expensive to explore or survey either of the Branches of that River No Step has been taken to discover or determine the Longitude or Meridian of their respective Fountains neither is there any Prospect of its being done yet a long time without the greatest hazard but if it be agreeable to His Ldp to have any thing done in that Business, be pleased to signify them that I may execute His Ldp's Commands. That Bill of Parker's I will get renewed & return it you as soon as possible. Neither Mr Plater nor Mr Steuart could make up their Accounts or receive the Fees due to them till this Month, on my Return to Annapolis I will comply with your Request concerning them & will also give Mr Tasker such a Hint as you desire. Mr Meyers I have not seen some time, he has I hear been much indisposed & I am afraid is not quite so temperate as his Father might wish. Mr Ridout has intimated to him that his Father is anxious to hear from him & advised him to be punctual in his Correspondence. herewith you receive the Journall of the Proceedings of the Lower House of Assembly during the last Session: the Laws I hear are in the Press & I hope will be ready to transmit by the next Opportunity of Conveyance that may offer. I shall perhaps then write from Annapolis whither I shall return as soon as our Fort is a little farther advanced so that the Frontier Inhabitants may think themselves more secure. My Presence here till that time the Ignorance of both our Officers & Men with regard to Fortification renders absolutely necessary & if I was away I doubt none of the Country People or Labourers would submit to the Command of any Military Officer. A Party of Indians has lately cut off some Families in Pens^a about 20 Miles from this place & I hear that another Party has again made an IncurSION into Virginia & destroyed several of the Inhabitants. The inclosed Gazette will shew you what has happened also in this Province, where alone I think the Indians have suffered a certain Loss. The Virginians are about to build a very expen-

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