

Letter Bk. I. already. If I should by any inquiries get knowledge of Vacancy that will answer that End, or Land contiguous & fit to be added to the Mannours already laid out & erected I will punctually obey His Ldp's Instructions.—His Ldp's Expectations of having what Land remains vacant in the more populous parts of the Country sold off at more advanced Prices I am afraid cannot be answered as much as I wish: The method always followed here of Locating Land Warrants by selecting the most rich & fertil Spots without regarding any regularity of Area or making one of its Courses coincide with the Boundary of the adjacent prior patented Tract has left the Land that now remains vacant & uncultivated in such irregular small & incommodious Parcells that it is thought scarcely worth any ones while but those on whose possessions it joins to take it up even at the common Rate. I observed in a Letter soon after my Arrival that in some of the Counties there is supposed to be a considerable number of Acres for which His Ldp receives no Rent. This (except the parcells just mentioned & some very poor Land not taken up) comes under the Denomi-

p. 36 nation of Surplus or cultivated Vacancy for the more easy discovery of which I at that time submitted a proposal for surveying one or two of the smaller Counties where there appears the greatest Disproportion between the Rents paid His Ldp & the Quantity of Land cultivated & possessed, however the occupiers are frequently making Resurveys & taking up the Vacant cultivated Land for which is paid according to the Improvement made thereon & as they can agree with the Agent to whom I have communicated my Instructions on this Head & desired He will comply with his Ldp's pleasure thereby signified. To morrow or the next Day Col^o Lloyd will be in Town & I will then in pursuance of His Ldp's last Instructions consult the several Gent^l again & see whether it be impossible or not to make some Advance in His Ldp's Rents on Land that shall from this time be applied for & taken up. Since the £30. some time since I have advanced M^r Evans £96. more most part thereof to defray the Expences attending his taking Extracts from the Records at New York relating to Delaware River & the Dutch & Sweedish Settlements thereon. I have sent the Extracts Authenticated together with the History of Delaware from thence compiled. Expecting this Performance would be more satisfactory than I apprehend it will now prove I was willing to embrace every opportunity that offered & circumstance that promised to clear up any Doubt concerning His Ldp's Title to the Lands disputed; & shall endeavour to shew myself vigilant by answering the several particulars relating to the Province & it's Boundaries that you were pleased to enjoin me to do by your last received favour bearing Date