

Letter Bk. I.
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[Sharpe to Calvert.]

2^d of Oct^r 1753. transmitted by Capt. Chew.

Sir

I take this opportunity of Addressing you in M^r Ridouts favour who (should M^r Sterling's Commission be withdrawn & the Office not revert to M^r Calvert) desires if you are under no prior Engagement to be recommended to that Office. You know He is disqualified for holding any place under his Lordships Commission till after three years residence on that Account I am persuaded as well as on my Recommendation you will be ready to confer on Him such an Obligation. M^r Sterlings District includes Chester Bohemia Sassafras & Patapsco Rivers.

The Merchants will make interest I am told to seperate the last from the other three & get it added as heretofore to the Collectorship of Annapolis which will be much for the advantage of their Trade. The other three are so adjacent that one Person can attend Them all with great ease.—

I shall defer writing on any Business till I see the Disposition of the Assembly who will meet to Day. Upon looking more particularly into the Act for the more effectual punishment of Negroes &c I find it is not to expire till next Session, and I shall not at present be able to do any thing farther in regard to the Quit Rent than to reduce the Farmers to 15[¢] p C^t for two years, in which time I shall be better able to put that Plan You honoured me with in execution, &c.

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[Sharpe to Calvert.]

Oct^r the sixth transmitted by M^r Skinner.—

Sir: You have inclosed the Addresses of Both Houses of Assembly in answer to my speech to them at the opening of this Session. They take longer time to prepare an Address to his Ldp. which I shall transmit as soon as They deliver The usual Ceremonies have taken up so much of their time since they have met that They have not yet proceeded to any Business. I deferred the recommendation of any particular Laws in my first Speech from an opinion that a little experience of their Dispositions before I should propose any thing would give me greater probability of success. I have ready to lay before them a Bill penned by the Attorney Gen^l for amending the Act in regard to Princess Ann Town & He is preparing another for the Amendment of the Act for the more effectual punishment of Negroes &c

I have ordered a State of the account & Disposal of what Money has been collected by the Act of three Pence p Hhd