

[Sharpe to Calvert.]

Letter Bk. I.

2<sup>d</sup> June 1757. transmitted by Capt.

Sir

I shall embrace the first opportunity of transmitting a Letter to London to inform you that while the Assembly was sitting at Baltimore One M<sup>r</sup> Grymes of Virginia who has lately set up an Iron Work in that Colony & was come to Baltimore to purchase Ore for supplying his Furnace addressed himself to me desiring the Naval Officers may be ordered to desist from collecting the Tonnage Duty on such Vessels as should be employed in carrying such Ore out of the Province intimating that if I declined to comply with his Request he should think of applying home for Relief which the Act of Parliament that was not long since made for the Encouragement of such as should set up Iron Works in these Colonies gave him hopes of obtaining. As his Application to me was sudden & the Request new & unexpected I told him that I could not give him any Answer then, nor take any Notice of what he had said but that if he had any Favour or Indulgence to ask of the Govern<sup>t</sup> he ought to present a Petition in Writing & that if he should on farther Consideration think proper to do so I would lay it before the Council & advise with them thereon. Since the Assembly broke up he has sent me a short Letter inclosing a Petition subscribed by himself & two other Gent<sup>rs</sup> of Virginia of which Letter & Petition I send you Copies that you may submit them to His Ldp & receive his Orders concerning them. Most of the Gent<sup>rs</sup> of the Council seem to think that the Petition is not unreasonable but I cannot help differing from their opinion & I am induced to do so by the following Considerations. As this Ore which the petitioners speak of is a Subject of Trade between two provinces independant of each other I apprehend that if the excusing the Virginia Vessels which may be employed in this Trade from the Payment of Duties here is contrary to the true Interest of Maryland they ought on no Acco<sup>t</sup> to be excused. As to the Circumstances that the Petitioners mention to raise Compassion they ought not in my opinion to be regarded, Compassion has nothing to do in Matters of Trade between two Independant States, here Interest alone is the ruling Principle & in this particular Case what is it to Us whether the Petitioners have been at a great or a small Expen<sup>c</sup>e in setting up their Works, or how fatal the Continuance of the Tonnage Duty on their Ore Vessels might be to them. Whether their Furnaces have been erected upon a supposed Stock of Ore in Virginia which has since failed or in Confidence of being supplied with our Ore Duty free is to Us a matter of Indifference, if they proceeded to build on the first Supposition they deserve no