

Original.  
Calvert  
Papers.

four each, & the City of Annapolis sends two. Now the business is to find Baits for 30 of these; which number is a clear Majority, supposing they were all to attend; But it is very rare by information that above two thirds are present, & not above one Day in a Session that they Exceed 48. To answer therefore this purpose, I would appropriate the 14 Sheriffs places, which will undoubtedly secure 14 Members & may by good Management of them commissions secure double that number; (But with this reserve ag<sup>t</sup> appropriation of the Sheriffs in case it shall hurt the receipt of his Lordships Revenue) There are 14 Farmers of his Lordships Quit-Rents, 14 Deputy Commiss<sup>rs</sup> & 14 Deputy Surveyours; all these places are considerable to the Middling sort of people, of whom the Lower House is composed, & might gain a great Majority of that House by being properly applyed amongst them, their Brothers & Sons; besides Military commissions & those of Justice of the Peace without number, for others who may be lead by their vanity & fondness of making a figure & being vested with Power amongst their Neighbours. In Order to carry this Plan into Execution; it would be proper to Reduce the Nomination of the New Sheriffs & Farmers of his Lord<sup>ps</sup> Quit-Rents (who generally hold their places for three years) to one & the same year, & to the same time of that year, as the Month of Nov<sup>r</sup> for instance; every new Representative of the people too should be Elected about the same time by which means, as their continuance is for 3 years their beginning & End will be, as those of the Sheriffs & Farmers Offices; upon the meeting of a New Assembly it can be no difficult matter to insinuate to one or two Members of each county something concern<sup>s</sup> the Sheriffs commission & to others the Farming of the Quit-Rents, & the Deputy commiss<sup>rs</sup> & Deputy Surveyours commissions for themselves or their Relations as it may be thought to suit best, to be entered upon as soon as that Assembly expires, that is, at the End of three years; by this means they will be made at least cool & Moderate & by an hint at proper Intervals in case of Misbehaviour, they may & will be brought to Act as they ought, without any great apprehension of lossing the People's favour on another Election since as soon as they cease to be Assembly Men, they commence Sheriffs Farmers &c<sup>a</sup> And thus they will be made to Earn these Commissions before they have them, & they will be executing these commissions for three years, while others are in that House Earning the succession; But in order to acquire a Credit to such hints or proposals, they should be Inviolably complied with, unless for some palpable Misbehaviour in the House, or during their several offices; in which last case they ought to be immediately removed, & granted