

[Sharpe to Calvert.]

Letter Bk. IV

Annapolis 27th March 1760 transmitted by
Sir

Having been just now informed that the Distemper under which Col^o Goldsborough hath long languished will certainly deprive us of him very shortly I have in the inclosed Letter taken the Liberty to recommend M^r Ridout as a Gentleman proper to succeed him in the Council which Recommendation I flatter myself you will well approve of & that you will second my Application. I need not I presume remind you in what Character M^r Ridout came with me into the Province, he has ever since resided with me as a Companion & acted as my private Secretary by which means You will imagine he has made himself acquainted not only with our late Transactions but also with the early History of the Province & rendered himself better qualified than most others to serve His Ldp in any Station wherein he may be pleased to employ him. It hath as I have intimated to you in former Letters some how or other happened that notwithstanding my Desire to distinguish him by some Mark of Favour it was never in my power to do it till Dec^r last when I prevailed on M^r Randolph one of His Majesty's Surveyor's General to appoint him Collector of the Customs in North Potowmack but I flatter myself that you have e'er this time obtained His Ldp's Leave for me to serve him in some other manner that I may reassume the Office of Surveyor General of this Shore which my Predecessors enjoyed. As I do not think it improbable that His Ldp will be much solicited to appoint a Gentleman of the Eastern Shore a Councillor in the Stead of Col^o Goldsborough I conceive it is my Duty to intimate to you that tis not without great Difficulty that any of the members who reside on that side the Bay can be got over to Annapolis on any Account whatever, by which means it often happens that I cannot collect enough members to make up a Council (some of those who reside on this Side being Invalids) & indeed M^r Tasker, his Son the Colonel, & his Son in Law M^r Dulany have generally the Determination of every Point that is submitted to the Consideration of the Council or that comes before the Upper House, an Evil which I must confess I should be very glad to see remedied. As it would give me pleasure to know whether the Proposal I have taken the Liberty to make meets with His Ldp's Approbation I hope you will be so kind as to obtain & communicate to me his Answer, either by the Packett or otherwise as soon as possible. You will find by the inclosed Gazette that I have been again obliged to convene the Assembly & solicit Supplies for the Service of the ensuing Campaign & I presume you will conclude as I do from the Address