

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

Letter Bk. IV

Annapolis 23^d May 1760.

My Ld

M^r Calvert Your Ldp's Secretary having in his Letter dated the 18th Nov^r last wrote to me to the following purport viz. His Ldp considering the bad Conduct & method of his provincial property under no regular measures is by Intricacy subject to Fraud & of much Loss & Trouble to him, he therefore directs Propositions relative viz^t that the Land Office His Ldp's Office of Record from whence issues all Common, Special & Resurvey Warrants, Grants & Patents of Land & of Escheat Land, 'Tis proposed that part of that Office shall be a Repository for all the Farm Contracts from the Rent Roll Keepers, which Contracts before delivered to the Farmers to be examined & certified by the Judges of that Office as to the Validity of Quit Rent of each County. And in that Office to be Deposited the Leases of all Mannour Lands & of all other Rights payable to the Ld Proprietor, the original Contracts as often as Occasion shall happen of Renewal to be deposited in that office ready to be produced before the Board there, to consist of the Lieutⁿ Governor, the Judges of the office, the Receivers Gen^l & Rent Roll Keepers. The Lieutⁿ Governor with the Judges of the Land Office to sign all Common, Special, & Resurvey Warrants, Grants & Patents & of Escheat Land disposed of & entered on Record. The Farm Contracts as often as renewed to be by the Receivers Gen^l transmitted to the Lord Proprietor & attested Copies of all other Concerns of his Revenue on Renewal. In order to Compensate for this Trouble & Attendance 'tis proposed viz. to the Judges of the Land Office their Profit as usual. To the Lieut^t Governor five p^r Cent out of the Ten p^r Cent as has been usually paid on Value of Land disposed of & four p^r Cent of the said Value to the Two Receivers General One for each Shore & the Remaining one p^r Cent for an additional Clerk to the Land Office whose Business shall be to keep Books & make Entry of all Concerns necessary by order of the Board at their meetings & to serve such Orders signed by the Board or the Major Part of them, the Lieut^t Governor being always one & upon the Party served not Complying with the Summons & Demand of the said Board on the Ld Proprietary's Behalf, the said Board shall by their Authority Order & Direct the Receivers General to take such measure as the Law directs by & with the Advice of the Attorney Gen^l Council for the Ld Proprietor; the Expence to be laid & approved by the Board & to stand charged to His Ldp, & it is proposed that five p^r Cent to be paid to the Stewards of the several Mannours out of the Ten p^r Cent of Rent Value as

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