

Advice & Assistance in Council more than we have had from the Attendance of the present Receiver Gen^l in short My Ld not to trouble your Ldp with an Enumeration of any more Difficulties, the Impropriety of an Agent's Residing on the Eastern Shore is not less in my Opinion than if a Clerk of His Majesty's Exchequer was to reside constantly at Bath or Canterbury. The only Convenience that can be suggested in favour of an Agent's Living on the Eastern Shore is that the Sheriffs or Farmers of those seven Counties may pay him the Quit Rents &c. without being under a necessity of Crossing the Bay to come to Annapolis; but in Answer to this it might be said that unless such Agent's Dwelling is just in the Middle on the high Road between Worcester & Cecil Counties & in some Town it must be more convenient for most of those Sheriffs to come at once hither where there being many good Houses of Entertainment they can be always well accommodated, & besides they are all obliged to attend here twice every year on the Provincial Court which detains them in Town at least for a Week at a time each Court, & was the Agent to Reside in this City with what Ease could they at those Seasons settle with him, when the Rent Roll Keepers would be also present. As I imagine enough has been said to make Your Ldp averse to appointing two Agents instead of One, I will now take the Liberty to point out to Your Ldp what Sort of Person was it my own Affair I should prefer to others. In the first place then it should not be one that is already possessed of a monstrous Fortune for as a large Estate in this Country will not turn to Account to the Owner unless he devotes a great part of his time to the Care & Management of it, such a one could not give so much attention to the Administration or management of Your Ldp's Affairs as must be given in order that they may be brought into & kept for the future under proper Regulation, Your Ldp is I apprehend too well convinced of the Justice of this observation. Again a Gentleman that hath had an Education for the Bar will not undertake it, for if he is already in good Practice or has a promising Prospect of Business he can get more by his Profession than the Agents Salary or Commission will amount to, & unless he was to lay aside or neglect other People's your Ldp's Business would be but ill attended to. What remains then is to pitch upon some Gentleman in a different Situation from those I have mentioned, & as Your Ldp seems desirous that the Agent or Agents should be of the Council you will I flatter myself excuse me for giving Your Ldp some Hints concerning the present members that might enable Your Ldp the better to judge & determine which of them you would choose to appoint Col^o Lloyd's Successor.

Letter Bk. IV

p. 89