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sometime ago Thoughts of Writing or at least of Collecting Materials for a History of the Province from its first Settlement: He says that when he had occasion to turn over & examine the old Records Council Books &c. at the time that he drew up that State or Historical Account of the Revenue Laws which I some time ago sent you & for which you desired me to return him His Ldp's Thanks, he found the Records down so low as 1703 so very deficient (many having been destroyed by Fire & some lost as he supposes during the Confusion that was in the Province about the time of the Revolution & Accounts of many Transactions being imperfectly entered in those that remain) that he imagines it would be impossible to Compile a History from the Records that are in the Province; but whether the Defects of those Books can be supplied from the Books & Papers relative to the Province which are in His Ldp's Possession I do not know. Since I am on this Subject I cannot help intimating to you that to M^r Ridout's having perused & examined the Records the Gentlemen of the Upper House were indebted for their Knowledge about the Act of 1650 exempting the Ld Proprietary from contributing thenceforward to the Support of any War for the Defence of the Province. But tho a History of Maryland from its first Settlement cannot be compiled in a short time & without much Difficulty yet as you intimate that if M^r Franklin or any other Person of the same Principles was to publish any thing in order to asperse & calumniate His Ldp or His Lieutⁿ Governor on Account of the Administration of the Govern^t during the present War you should be at a Loss for Materials to frame an Answer, I will as soon as possible transmit you a continued Narrative of the Assembly's Proceedings since that Period, which I think will be sufficient to convince impartial Judges that whatever were their Professions & Pretences their Study from the Beginning hath been by all means to avoid granting Supplies for His Majesty's Service & to encrease their own Power. Would it be amiss in such a Narrative to take Notice of their Endeavours to impose on the People of Great Britain by those scandalous queries that were sometime ago published in the London Chronicle? & if you approve of such their Endeavours being noticed, what think you of Subjoining to the Queries the inclosed Answers which it may be observed could have been likewise inserted in the Chronicle had His Ldp or any of his Friends thought it becoming him or expedient to defend or justify his own Conduct or the Administration of his Lieutⁿ Govern^r in that manner, because an Anonymous Calumniator had been pleased to call on His Ldp or his Friends to do so. I am sorry Mess^{rs} Penn's Lieut^t Governor or their Secretary in Pensilvania should have