

Letter Bk. IV Cause he would wish to serve than lest he should be deficient in Point of Duty. His Abilities as a Lawyer cannot be questioned & by this means he will I suppose be ever a Check on M^r Dulany of whom however he is perhaps too suspicious & jealous as they have always been at Enmity, but as there is no Man who is not liable to Error & those of a warm Temper are generally more liable than others, I shall never think it right to surrender myself up even to this Gentleman as to a Pilot, tho I assure you his opinion in matters of Law will always determine me; & his Advice in other Affairs will have great Weight unless upon examining his Propositions coolly & considering them maturely, I see good Cause to decline carrying them into Execution. What induced my Predecessors to recommend several of the other members of the Council I do not know, but imagine it could not be on Account of their extraordinary Abilities for scarcely any of them except M^r Thomas whose Understanding & Capacity were never questioned have ever taken upon themselves to pen a common Message yet all of them except M^r Thomas enjoy Lucrative Offices, & as it pleased the late Ld Proprietary to distinguish them by peculiar marks of Favour I shall only say that if they are now found deficient either in Point of Understanding or Affection to the Ld proprietary I hope their Failure or Defects will not be attributed to me who had no hand in their Promotion. I now proceed to consider your Scheme for gaining & securing a Majority in the Lower House of Assembly, which it supposes may be done by Conferring the Offices of Sheriffs, Deputy Surveyors & Deputy Commissaries on such Members as should be tractable enough to follow the Directions which it might be thought fit to give them. That it would be good Policy to reward if possible every one of the Delegates that act a moderate Part in the Lower House & manifest a good Disposition to preserve Order & promote the Prosperity of the Province is my sincere Opinion & I have adopted & pursued this measure as often as it lay in my power but that hath not always been the Case. You know Sir that I have at times been obliged to bestow Sheveralities & other Offices in Obedience to His Ldp's or Your Instructions on Persons who not only had not Interest enough to be Elected themselves but also espoused the Interest of Such (being some how connected with them) as were known to be Enemies to good Order & the Proprietary Govern^t Many have also been appointed at the Sollicitation of His Ldp's Agent whose Recommendations

p. 112 you once hinted to me that His Ldp hoped I paid due Regard to. Several have been promoted at the Instance of M^r Tasker whom also I have understood from some of Your Letters that His Ldp was desirous I should oblige, & indeed I had

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