

Counties at once for Instance in Nov^r next & Writts were to be at the same time issued for a general Election none of those on whom it should be thought fit to Confer the Sheveralities could sit in the Lower House for they are disqualified by Act of Assembly, All then that could be done would be to promise One of the Representatives for each County that he shall be appointed a Sheriff at the Expiration of three years in Case he does during that Term Vote & behave in the House after such a manner as shall be approved of; I will suppose then for Argument's Sake that by this means fourteen of the Members are attached to the Interest of the Ld Proprietary, tho as I have already hinted this could not easily be done because among the four Members that are sent from some of the Counties there is not one capable of Executing the Office of Sheriff; Can you think it possible to secure as many more by telling them that if they can keep their Seats in the House during six Years they shall then be taken Notice of. for my own Part I am convinced most of them would laugh at any one that should give them such a Hint, & had much rather enjoy the Satisfaction & pleasure they have in Sitting in the House than the hopes of holding an Office for three years under the Govern^t at so distant a Period & afterwards sink into Contempt, not to mention the Risk they would run of being rejected by the People three years before their Expectations could be gratified with the Sheriffs Offices for having shewn too much Attachment to the Govern^t during the first three years after they were permitted to entertain such Expectations. By what hath been already urged I think you will be convinced that the Offices which His Ldp or His Lieut^t Governor hath the Disposal of are much too few for them to secure a Majority in the Lower House of Assembly by that means alone, for my own Part I am well satisfied that however plausible the Scheme proposed in Your Letter might appear in Theory it never can be effectually carried into Practice. Was it even possible by such a Scheme to secure a Majority in the Lower House for one Session it would then fail for after a Person had obtained an Office by espousing the Proprietary's Interest he could have no Chance of being again elected & so in Nine Years the Lieut^t Governor would be so far engaged to Such as had been in the Assembly that he would not have even one Office in his Disposal to bestow on them that should be then there, since a Promise once made is to be inviolably kept. That a great Influence hath at times been gained in the British House of Commons by such means is certain but it cannot be thence inferred that the same might be easily done here. Let it be considered how many hundred Offices Civil & Military are in