

Letter Bk. III lectorship of Potowmack for M^r Ridout were not attended with Success however we both think ourselves as much obliged to you as if they had been effectual & in Compliance with M^r Ridout's Request I beg you'll accept his most grateful Acknowledgments. As there was no Ship about to Sail from this Province when we received Advice of M^r Deacon's Death M^r Ridout sent the Letters which I thereupon wrote to you, two of them by Way of Virg^a & one to the Northward to be transmitted by the first Vessel that should sail for any Part of Great Britain either from Phil^a or N York, but I have since learnt that a Scotch Ship sailed from Potowmack the very Day or the Day after M^r Deacon died & I presume 'twas by that means the Mess^{rs} Hansburys got such early Intelligence of it, for M^r Wolstenholme who you must know is their Factor here says they had a Correspondent in every Part of Great Britain where Tob^o Ships ever go who had engaged to send them immediate Advice whenever they should learn from the Master of any Vessel or otherwise that M^r Deacon was dead. M^r Wolstenholme likewise says they had a Friend in the Treasury who had promised to give them the earliest Notice & moreover that old M^r Hanbury obtained a Promise of that Office in his Favour many years ago, but as the Duke of Newcastle did not mention this Circumstance when you made Application to him I question the Truth of it because I think it would have been a better Excuse for His not Complying with Your Request than the Reason which His Grace was pleased to give you. The Mess^{rs} Hanburys really managed exceedingly well to take such an Opportunity of obtaining the Duke's Promise; had they given the whole Sum that you mention out of their Pockets they would not have made a bad Bargain, besides as they did not on this occasion make immediate Application themselves, their Interest still stands good & I doubt not but they will try it again the next Opportunity for tho they have no other Factor they have many Correspondents in the Province whom they would be glad to serve. At the time that I wrote to Brother Phill & desired him to speak to you about that other office in the Customs which I was informed had just then become vacant in this Province by the Death of M^r Hough the Surveyor of Pocomoke I had not the least Room to question the Truth of that Report but the moment I was undeceived I wrote again to him & was in hopes that my Letters would have reached him soon enough to prevent any Application being made by you for that Office. I am very sorry it has happened otherwise because you have not only had a good Deal of Trouble unnecessarily but His Grace might perhaps think it a little odd, tho such Accidents I am assured have often happened. It is not more than two years ago that some