

Gentleman belonging to the Treasury I think it was M<sup>r</sup> West obtained for one M<sup>r</sup> Razer as I have been informed a Commission to act as Collector of Lewis Town District on Delaware in the Stead of the old Collector who was said to be then dead, when in fact he did not dye nor relinquish his Office till some time after M<sup>r</sup> Razer received his Commission & I have been told that M<sup>r</sup> Razer now acts by Virtue of the Commission that was issued in his favour before his Predecessor's Death: for this Reason & as M<sup>r</sup> Hough is pretty far advanced in Years I shall keep the Commission w<sup>ch</sup> you transmitted for M<sup>r</sup> Ridout in my hands untill I again hear from you or receive Instructions from the Commissioners of the Customs to return it. Inclosed I take the Liberty to send you a Letter addressed to those Gentlemen which if you approve of its Contents you will be pleased to send them or otherwise do therewith as you shall think proper. M<sup>r</sup> Wolstenholme was in a very bad State of Health about the middle of last Winter, but he seems to be now again quite well & may probably live a great many years; besides him there are three other Collectors in this Province. The Office which one of them enjoys I mean the Collectorship of Potuxent is much more valuable than that of Potowmack but the other two together are not worth so much. That of Potuxent is held by one M<sup>r</sup> Calvert a Gent<sup>n</sup> of our Council who likewise enjoys a lucrative Office under the Proprietary to whom he is very nearly related being a Son of the late Lord whose name he assumed with his Ldp's Leave a few years before I arrived in the Province. As He is now a young man & in good Health there is no great Probability of his Office becoming vacant many years, & the same might be said of one of the other two which is enjoyed by M<sup>r</sup> Heron Collector of the District of Pocomoke. The other which brings in little more than the Sallery of £60 a year that is annexed to it & paid out of the Treasury is I think called the Collectorship of Chester (for I perceive it is not entered with the Rest in the present State of Great Britain) & is enjoyed by the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> James Sterling for whom I understand it was created a few years before I left England at the Instance of M<sup>r</sup> Nugent who having promised M<sup>r</sup> Sterling some Ecclesiastical Preferment which he was afterwards unwilling or unable to bestow on him fell upon that method to get quit of him. As this Gentleman is now pretty far advanced in Years & hath been lately much afflicted with the Stone his Death may possibly make a Vacancy within these few years, but perhaps as his Office was created purposely to serve him it might be thought fit to let it drop at his Decease. Besides the Offices I have mentioned there are four or five Surveyors Places in the Province which in fact are so many Sine Cures, the principal of