

Letter Bk. III them exclusive of Houghs are two that are enjoyed at present by M<sup>r</sup> Tasker & his Son, the former of whom is Surveyor of Annapolis by which he gets a Salary of £60 a year & the Latter being Surveyor of Sassafrass receives a Salary of £50. The Reason of my troubling you with so particular an Account of these Offices is that in Case any of them should become vacant & you will be so kind as to forget the Trouble I have already given you & sollicit His Grace once more You may know the Value of what you apply for. However as I do not now entertain very sanguine hopes of seeing M<sup>r</sup> Ridout in possession of such an Office in the Customs here as I could wish & having a great Esteem & Regard for him I have taken the Liberty to recommend him in a particular manner to His Ldp for favour not choosing to rely entirely on M<sup>r</sup> Calvert who notwithstanding what he may have told you has not only recommended Persons to me for Offices which I would have bestowed on others, but hath even sent me Instructions from my Lord to appoint particular Persons of his own Choosing to almost every Office in the Gov<sup>t</sup> except the Sheveralities that hath become vacant during my Administration I am not at all surprized at what you tell me of his being sometimes in good humour & at other times appearing dissatisfied when he calls on you nor do I conceive you will wonder at it when I tell you that he lends a willing Ear to every Story that is told him concerning even the most trifling Transaction or Accident that happens in the Province, he sollicit the Correspondence of many of the members of the Council & others with a view I suppose he would say of coming at the Truth & lest he should be misled by the partial Representations of myself or any other single Person but as his Correspondents have different Interests & many of them are at Enmity I am sure their Letters can answer no other End but to confuse him or increase his Doubts & perhaps some of them may incline him at times to entertain an unfavourable opinion of myself. In a Letter I lately received from him he seems to intimate that he thinks the turbulent Spirit which the Assembly have shewn for some Years past might have been easily laid I could almost wish he had been to make the Experiment but tho he does now & then write in such a manner as affords me little satisfaction yet he never fails to profess himself my sincere Friend & that he thinks His Ldp is much obliged to me for my Services. But I lately received a Lett<sup>r</sup> from my Ld himself that hath given me more pleasure than all that his Secretary hath favoured me with, a Copy of which as I think the Contents will give you likewise Pleasure I shall take the Liberty to inclose, & I am not without hopes that the Step which His Ldp has taken in presenting me with such a Box as is men-