

Bills of Excha to the Islands for a great Part of the Commodities we get from them. Had those Vessels which have been employed in that Hispaniola Trade carried Provisions thither from Phila<sup>a</sup> & other Places perhaps more might have been urged against it but I have heard that this has not been the Case & as the Act of Parliament which was made two or three years ago forbidding the Exportation of Grain from this Continent to any neutral Ports in a manner put an End to the greatest Branch of Business which had been before carried on here, I mean in the Northern Colonies the Merchants were at a Loss how to employ their Vessels & themselves till they fell into the Trade you condemn. I ask your Pardon for troubling you with my Sentiments on this Subject which you may probably think appears to me in a wrong Light, perhaps it does, & I do not for my part know but the Trade that has been carried on might be contrary to Law. however it is said that some Lawyers are of a different opinion. I think myself obliged to you for the Civilities you were pleased to shew those Maryland Gent<sup>n</sup> who you say dined with you; Two of them, I mean M<sup>r</sup> Key & M<sup>r</sup> Plater were before they went to England Members of the Lower House of Assembly, & as such opposed as far as was in their Power those who endeavoured to render my Administration uneasy, the first of them is at the Temple where I believe he intends to reside three or four years, after which time he will in all probability make a good Figure in Maryland, for tho he may perhaps appear a little awkward to you at present having seen little of the World he is allowed to have good Parts & I am pleased to find that he has represented to His Father (for whom I have a great Regard) & to others of his Friends here the Lord Proprietary in a better Light than others have done who have been much favoured by His Ldp & pretend to be well acquainted with his Capacity & Principles. The other two Gentlemen that dined with you were Roman Catholicks. M<sup>r</sup> Carroll I never saw he having been in France many years & the others Errand home or in Europe was to carry his Children to some College in Germany where he has a Relation that is a Jesuit. I found no Letter from Ld Albermarle inclosed in yours from whence I conclude he promised to send you one for me but that you had not received it when you closed Your Letter. It gives me much pleasure to hear that His Ldp is taken into some Degree of Favour, I wish he may long continue so. It was sometime ago confidently reported here that Ld Baltimore had a Tendre for one of the Miss Bladens which indeed I was sorry to hear because it boded no Good to myself, I suppose if that Match had taken Place my Stay here would have been very short, but whether it is to be short or of long