

Letter Bk. III Duration I shall endeavour to conduct myself so as that His Ldp. might have nothing to alledge against any Part of my Behaviour & I hope he will not imitate the Assembly who in Dec^r 1754 told me in a message "that my past Conduct persuaded them of my good Intentions for the future & gave them the strongest assurance of my utmost Endeavours to promote the general Happiness & Prosperity of their Constituents" & immediately discontinued a Duty on Tobacco that amounted to £150 stg a year which had been usually given for fifty years before to the Governor for the time being. As this Part of America is not at present the Scene of Action & we are not advised of the Success of our Military operations in other Parts of the Continent till some time after the Events have happened, the London Papers must I think give you an Account of all publick Transactions on this Continent much sooner than I can do by Letter, I shall however send you in the inclosed Gazette all the news of Consequence that we have lately received either from the Nthwd or Sthwd upon which as it promises a successful Campaign I heartily congratulate you & hoping you will be pleased to present my Love & Comp^{ts} to Your Lady, I remain D^r Sir

[Sharpe to the Commissioners of the Customs.]

Annapolis the 8th of July 1760.

Gentlemen

I do myself the honour to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Letter dated the 29th of March inclosing one to M^r Surveyor Gen^l Randolph & also a Bond to be executed by M^r Ridout to whom you told me that your Deputation had been issued appointing him Surveyor of the Customs at Pocomoke in the Room of M^r Edmund Hough, but as I perceive that the Deputation to M^r Ridout was issued upon a Supposition that M^r Hough was dead which is not the Case (tho indeed it was reported here in Dec^r last that he really was dead) I have not admitted M^r Ridout to that Office nor indeed did he apply to me for Admission but on the contrary advised me that as soon as he found the Report concerning M^r Hough's Decease was groundless (it having taken its Rise from M^r Hough's Son's dying about that time) he transmitted Letters to England desiring his Friends to forbear making application on his Behalf for the Surveyor's Office & he hath also put into my hands his Deputation which I shall retain together with the abovementioned Bond until I am favoured with Your farther Instructions concerning them.

I am,