

Letter Bk. III am told an Invaled. The Salary annexed to this Office is £90 a Year but the Perquisites are not so considerable as those which are paid to the Collector of Potowmack, it being usual for most of the Vessels that Trade to Delaware either to Enter at Lewis Town which lies at the Mouth of that River or to run up & enter at Phila^a. Now as Newcastle is not more than about 80 Miles from this Place & the Road an exceeding good one so that one might if one pleased go thither in a Day, it would be as easy for M^r Ridout could he obtain it to superintend that Office as it is for M^r Wolstenholme (who also lives here) to superintend the Collector's Office on Potowmack & there could be no Difficulty in getting a good Person at Newcastle to officiate as a Deputy; if therefore upon considering this Matter You shall think my Brother William after what hath passed would apply for this Collectorship Be so kind as to Communicate to him what I have written concerning it. It is no uncommon Thing in America for Custom House Officers to have Leave to act by Deputy; The Collectors Office at Phila^a in particular hath been many Years executed in that manner, & in this Province M^r Calvert (not to mention M^r Wolstenholme) hath Deputies at Potuxent & Oxford (which are Ports within his District) who transact the whole Business at those Places & prove the Accounts that are by him transmitted to the Commissioners of the Customs. How such Indulgence or Leave is to be obtained whether from the Lds Commissioners of the Treasury or the Commissioners of the Customs Gov^r Dinwiddie could inform You, if it is in the power of the Surveyor Gen^l in N America to grant such Indulgence I could obtain it in M^r Ridouts favour without any Difficulty Submitting then to Your Consideration what I have said I shall quit this Subject by Desiring you to accept M^r Ridouts grateful Acknowledgments & my Thanks for the kind Endeavours You have already taken to bring about the Accomplishment of his Wishes. Your Letter dated the 10th of January with a Copy of Mess^{rs} Hanburys Acco^t inclosed I received some time ago. The Affair of the six Hhds of Tob^o & my Excha on M^r Bell for £10 in B^r Joshua's favour must still remain unsettled, I mean that I cannot either instruct you to refund the £34. 10. 9 which you say you have received from M^r Bell as the nett Proceeds of those Six Hhds (tho I see no such Article in either of the Accounts that You transmitted to me) nor to present the said Bill of Exchange for Acceptance, till M^r Bell's Agent or Factor here sends me a Copy of M^r Bell's account which he promised to do several months ago but hath not yet performed his Promise, however if You have received that £34. 10. 9 I am on the safe Side. I am obliged to You for giving me a Hint how I may please