

to assure You that if any of the Inhabitants of this Province should be detected in carrying on any illegal Trade or Correspondence whatever I will take Care that they be brought to exemplary & condign Punishment. Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

4th March 1761.

Letter Bk. IV
p. 163

My Ld

The Rev^d M^r Murdock lately Rector of Prince George's parish having died about the Middle of last Month I now do myself the honour to advise Your Ldp of that Event & to inform Your Ldp that I have authorized or Lycenced the Rev^d M^r Williamson to officiate there as a Curate untill I shall be favoured with Your Ldp's Instructions to appoint some other Rector in the Stead of the Deceased; I also take the Liberty to remind Your Ldp that this is the Living which (as I understood from M^r Calverts Letters) Your Ldp intended to confer on D^r Sharpe in case it should become vacant before that Gentⁿ should be otherwise provided for, It is at this time one of the most valuable in the province but as 'tis pretty extensive being above thirty miles long & as many wide I suppose the Parishioners will desire to have it divided, I shall not however pay any Regard to such Petition untill I have the Satisfaction to be advised of Your Ldp's pleasure. It gives me My Ld a good Deal of Concern that I cannot yet state an Account of the Amount or produce of the Duty of One Shilling a Hhd between the 29th Day of Sept^r 1759 & the 29th of last Sept, nor remit your Ldp by this Opportunity a Bill of Exchange for the Surplus or Excess of such Produce above the Sum of £1000. the Reason of such my Inability is that M^r Young the Naval Officer of Pocomoke hath not returned his last Year's Account to either Your Ldp's Agent or Myself, Being reminded by me of his Duty & of his Neglect, in a Letter dated the 24th of last Month he lays the Blame on his Deputy, who he apprehends has been hindered by the hard Weather which we have had this Winter from coming up to Baltimore County, where M^r Young resides, but I cannot help thinking that it is in a great measure owing to his own Dilitoriness, for it was almost three months after he ought to have settled his annual Account before the severe Weather came on; but whoever of them is most to blame I hope it will not be much longer before M^r Young returns his Account to the Agent & a Duplicate to me, & Your Ldp may be assured that I will embrace the first Opportunity afterwards of transmitting mine to Your Ldp together with a Bill of Exchange for the Ballance or Surplus abovementioned, & in the mean time I am My Ld with the utmost Respect Y^r Ldp's devoted & most obed^t Serv^t p. 164