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pains to acquire the Knowledge necessary for a Person in such an Office I flatter myself he will while he continues give Satisfaction in it. The Reason M^r Bordley gave me for declining to accept was that the Business of the Commissary's Office required such constant Attendance as would endanger his health & that by the practice of M^r Dulany's Father & himself it is become a Custom (in my opinion an ill One) for Persons concerned as Executors Administrators &c to apply to & expect Advice from the Commissary so that he should be always lyable to be broke in on, or to be censured for being less kind & complaisant than his Predecessors, but I am by no means satisfied that his principal Reason for declining was not Envy at M^r Dulany's Success, or an Opinion that people will say he must take & be glad with his Leavings, & indeed I don't know but the Other in order to mortify him might contrive to have such Observations made. All I shall say farther is that if I could have imagined M^r Bordley would have hesitated to comply with so reasonable a Request of mine I should never have thought of recommending him to succeed Col^o Tasker, but as I intimated to him I find from Experience that if people in this Country are gratified in a hundred Instances & afterwards refused One Favour All is forgotten, & well is it if they do not afterwards act more like Enemies than Friends. that you may be more fully convinced of the Justice of this Observation I must take the Liberty to go back a little & give you an Account of what passed here after the Decease of Col^o Tasker, at the time of whose Death M^r D Dulany happened to be at Boston or in one of the Northern Colonies. Very early the next Morning I received a Letter from M^r Walter Dulany who lives in Town desiring he might be appointed to succeed the Colonel, but as I did not think His Ldp or you would approve of my conferring an Office of such Consequence on a Person so nearly related to one of whose Behaviour towards you in neglecting to make the usual Remittance expected from the Commissary you had very frequently complained, I excused myself as handsomely as I could from complying with his Request assuring him at the same time that whenever it should be in my power to serve him I would with pleasure embrace the Opportunity, as I really intended, tho I thought indeed that he might be satisfied with something less than one of the principal Offices in the Government, besides I knew that if I had appointed him & he had not been afterwards confirmed his being superseded would have been resented as an Injury done him, & if you should have confirmed him then he would have immediately push't for a Seat in the Council, & had he obtained that likewise what Influence could a Governor expect to have at that

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