

weaken the opposition at this Critical Juncture by offering lucrative Employments to any of the opponents, His Ldp may be assured that the Advantage procured thereby would be of short Duration, & that in fact from that period the Faction would gather Strength, & that he could have no prospect of quiet while there should be any thing for them to demand or any thing left in his power to give up— You say “Of Alienation Fines mentioned in His Ldp’s Instructions I recommend to commune only with M^r Commissary Dulany for fear of Alarm, he knows how the Conditions can be improved, I have reasons for this Hint & it is quite proper to discover no Hint of this to him from me to you” which I apprehend refers to the following Clause in His Ldp’s Instructions “With regard to my Alienation Fines the trifling annual Sums they produce is notorious, & of this I have too much reason to charge from undoubted Intelligence that this Article of Revenue was it levied & justly paid it would clear if not more yet equal in Revenue as may my Quit Rents; this unjust Grievance I understand has prevailed under all the pecuniary Administrations of Agents that were in my Father’s Time & the same continues on me, Why? It is my real Due on the Death of my provincial Tenants by Virtue of their respective Grants inheritable to be levied & paid by all Heirs in its full Extent it is a reciprocal mutual Agreement by Grant & Patent between the Lord & provincial Tenant, therefore much Care ought & must be had as to just payment & that it be enforced” In Answer to which I must beg Leave to observe to you in the first place that His Ldp seems to have been misinformed with regard to what would be the Amount of the Alienation Fines were they rigorously exacted & punctually paid upon every Devise or Descent of Land by the Death of a Tenant as well as upon every Conveyance, for as the Fine or Money payable to His Ldp on an Alienation of a Tract of Land is as you will see by the patent no more than One years Quit Rent of such Land, the whole Amount of Alienation Fines could not amount to as large a Sum as the Quit Rents amount to, unless there was once every year a total & entire Change or Alienation of All the Lands in the Province, An Event which can never be expected or conceived. But tho the Alienation Fines upon Devises (could Heirs & Devisees be compelled to pay) & the Alienation Fines which are now paid would even together fall very far short of the Annual Amount of Quit Rents yet they would doubtless amount every year to a large Sum, & therefore it may be well worth while to consider whether by the Tenour of His Ldp’s patents an Alienation Fine ought to be paid on the Death of every Person that dies seized of Land in this province & if it is