

the Contrary at their Peril, Given at the City of Annapolis this 20th Day of Oct^r in the 28th Year of His Ldps Dominion Annoq. Domini 1742. Since that time No Alienation Fines have been demanded from Heirs or Devisees & it has been supposed by the People that the late Lord drop't the Demand upon advising with Council in England, & being informed that he could not support his Claim; As therefore it cannot be doubted but there will be a general Clamour against His Ldp in Case the abovementioned Instructions be now renewed & enforced & it is as certain that if by any means they can the People will exempt themselves from Payment I entertain hopes that His Ldp will before he sends his Agent peremptory orders to Levy such Fines take the Advice of able Lawyers in England thereon & together with his Instructions transmit a Copy of such Lawyers opinion, wherefore that you may be able to state the Affair properly I shall by this Opportunity send you Copies of an Old & of a New Patent as they were granted by His Ldp's Ancestor & himself & also a Copy or Form of the Patents that are issued in Pennsylvania, by which you will see that it is not the Custom there to reserve any Alienation Fines; & as I imagined it might give His Ldp or you some Satisfaction to see the Form of the Patents that are issued in the Colonies which are immediately under the Govern^t of the Crown, I have wrote to Gov^r Fauquier for a Copy of a Virg^a Patent & desired M^r Ridout to apply to a Friend of his at N York for a Copy or Form of the Patents that are issued in that Govern^t which I will transmit to you as soon as they come to hand. As you lay me under an Injunction to speak to No Body except M^r Dulany about the Alienation Fines on Devises & I have reason to think that was I to mention the Affair to him it would not be long a Secret I have declined doing it being of Opinion that if he advises the Levying them he ought to be on the Spot ready & willing to assist the Attorney Gen^l in Supporting His Ldp's Claim, but if he is sincerely of that Opinion & is confident His Ldp can recover Methinks it should not have been made a Secret, but he might have freely communicated his Sentiments to me thereon; I can only add that if His Ldp shall on mature Consideration of what I have wrote on this Subject which I presume you will lay before him be pleased to enforce the abovementioned Instruction I will give the Agent all the Countenance & Assistance in my Power. I really have not leisure at present but as soon as the Assembly breaks up I will consider of & send you a Draft of such Instructions as I think it would be expedient for His Ldp to transmit to His Agent whenever he shall be pleased to have the plan concerning which I did myself the honour to write to him the 23^d of May last carried into Execu-