

Letter Bk. IV tion. I am not at all surprized at M^r Plater's desiring you to constitute him Your Deputy but should have been sorry had you complied with his Request for tho I have a very good opinion of his Disposition & was well satisfied with his Conduct during the Session or two he appeared in the Lower House yet as he is not thought a person of extraordinary Abilities & is very young & inexperienced being I suppose scarcely 24 years old, I am of opinion it would not be good Policy so early to confer on him such extraordinary Marks of Favour as you mention, but if he gets into the Lower House again as I suppose he may & continues to act as he begun You need not doubt my Readiness to serve him as far as may be in my power consistent with good Policy, for I really have a Regard for him. I am glad to hear that M^r Key who was also in the Lower House two or three Sessions (having been elected at the same time with M^r Plater by the Inhabitants of S^t Mary's County) behaves in such a manner as inclines His Lordship to entertain a favourable opinion of him, for I have a peculiar Regard for his Father as well as for the Young Gentleman, who has I think good natural Abilities & if he attends closely to his Studies I doubt not but he will some years hence make a good Figure in this province. As I have been already very prolix & am afraid lest the Ship by which I intend to transmit this from Potowmack to Scotland should sail before my packett can be put on board I must for the present defer giving a particular Answer to Your Letter about M^r Goldsborough, concerning whom I will take the Liberty to write more fully the first Opportunity, in the mean time I would not have you entertain the worse opinion of him for not being with D^r Steuart on that Vote which was put by those in the Opposition on purpose to gain an Advantage over the Moderate Party in hopes that such Members by being against the proposition would render themselves liable to be censured or condemned by their Constituents, but as D^r Steuart does not depend for his Election on such Sort of people as compose the Majority in every County he was not under the like necessity to appear on that Vote as M^r Goldsborough did with people whom he has strenuously opposed (as you may see by the Journalls) in the Lower House for several years, & if no Argument could be urged against M^r Goldsborough's being preferred but what can be drawn from his Conduct in the Assembly he would I believe stand in a very fair Light. With the greatest Regard I am &c.