

[Sharpe to Captain Norton.]

Letter Bk. III

[Augt. 3 1761?]

Sir

Several Gentlemen in this Province who act as Agents for Merch<sup>ts</sup> in London & several of the Masters of Ships which came from England last Spring under your Convoy having represented to me by Petitions that it will be impossible for them to load the Vessels with which they are respectively concerned soon enough for them to fall down to Virg<sup>a</sup> before the 20<sup>th</sup> of next Month & that unless You will be pleased to put off the Day of Your Sailing till the 10<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> their Ships must either lose the Benefit of Convoy or return to England before their Cargoes can be got on board to the great Detriment of the Merchants in England I take the Liberty to inclose you the abovementioned Petitions hoping that you will if possible agreeable to the Desire of the Petitioners put off the Day of Your Departure &c.

[Sharpe to William Sharpe.]

Aug<sup>st</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1761.D<sup>r</sup> B<sup>r</sup>

It was not till a few Days ago I had the pleasure to receive the Letter You were so kind as to favour me with the 15<sup>th</sup> of April notwithstanding it is now more than six Weeks since our Fleet arrived & I understand that M<sup>c</sup>Murray came a Passenger in one of those Ships. It gave me much Satisfaction to learn by a Letter which M<sup>r</sup> Ridout received from His Correspondent in March last that in Compliance with my Request you had renewed Your Application to the Duke of Newcastle on his Behalf & obtained for him the Office of Surveyor of Bahama & Sassafrass but the Leicester Packett by which M<sup>r</sup> Campbell had transmitted his Deputation having been taken by the Enemy his Correspondent was obliged to apply for a Duplicate by which means he will I presume be charged with double Fees. As there are no Perquisites belonging or accruing to this Office he will not I suppose after the usual Deductions for the Civil List &c. have been made receive more than about £45 a year from it, nevertheless as there are so few lucrative Offices held under the Crown in this Province, it was I think more advisable all Risks considered for him to apply for this than to wait in expectation of a better & as he is sensible that had it been more valuable You would have been equally sollicitous to procure it for him he thinks himself as much obliged to you as if you had procured him the Collectorship, & desires me to present you his grateful Ac-