

Letter Bk. IV several of the other Commissioners are of opinion that it would be a much more certain Method to discover & ascertain a Point fifteen miles South of Phila^a (when the Transit Instrument for which we have applied to His Ldp & the Proprietors of Pennsylvania arrives) by actual Mensuration than to rely on Observations to be taken by the Earl of Sterlings Instrument of no more than thirty Inches Radius which tho probably an exceeding good one will not according to the Accounts given us of it determine or certainly ascertain the Latitude of a Place to less than half a Minute which you know being reduced into yards on the Surface of the Earth is $1019\frac{1}{3}$ yds, I should therefore be glad to know which method His Ldp thinks 'twill be best for us to pursue in order to settle & ascertain the Point whence this Line is to be begun ; & the Commissioners are all desirous to know whether His Lordship will choose to have the Line in question I mean the North Boundary extended so far Westward as the Meridian of the Fountain Head of the North Branch or to the Meridian of the most Western Spring that runs into the South Branch of Potowmack River. In the inclosed Letter I have at the Instance of all the Commissioners wrote to His Ldp for the Transit Instrument mentioned by D^r Bevis & also for a large Reflecting Telescope with a Micrometer thereto fitted, but if the Telescope of only a Foot Radius or Focal Distance & Micrometer which I some time ago desired you to send us is already shipt that will well enough answer the purpose & in that Case His Ldp & the Proprietors of Pennsylvania need not Order any Thing more besides the Transit Instrument for Describing the North Boundary. I am &c—

Original.

[Colville to Sharpe.]

Northumberland at Halifax 7th Novem^r 1761

Sir

I am honoured with your Letter desiring a Convoy for the Tobacco Ships of Maryland, which could not be got ready to sail with the assistance; and agreeable to your desire I send Captain Adams in the Diana of Thirty two Guns, for that purpose. I am apprehensive he cannot reach Maryland time enough to perform the desired Service; but had the Gentlemen concerned made their application to me sooner, I should have had the pleasure of serving them, with greater certainty.

I send you inclosed a Copy of the orders I have given to Captain Adams, which would have been more explicit, had I been acquainted with the Number of Vessels for which a Convoy is requested; however, I may reasonably suppose it equal,