

happened in this Province but as I have heard that the Captain is almost ready to sail again for Europe & I may not perhaps have another Opportunity of getting a Packet conveyed to him at the Wye before his Departure, I embrace one that now offers to send him together with this Thirty six more Sheets of the Acts of Assembly which are now printing here & also a Copy of a Letter that I received a few Days ago from Mess^{rs} Mason & Dixon. By this Letter of theirs it appears that they had on the 18th Inst extended their Line the Distance of seventy miles from the Middle Point but as it deflects considerably Westward from the last Line run by the former Surveyors they must in pursuance of the Hints that you sent us make Offsets as they return to the Middle Point & then endeavour to run a straight Line thro the Terminations of such Offsets so that I am afraid they will not proceed again on the North Boundary before the End of the Summer. As I had not Time when I last wrote to answer so particularly as I should have otherwise done your Letter of the 29th of Feb^y I shall now take the liberty to communicate what else occurred to me on a perusal & farther Consideration of its Contents. In answer to your Enquiry whether any Lots have been reserved to His Ldp in the Towns which have been established in this province I must inform you that the Towns have been always built on Land which had been before patented to private persons so that a Reservation could not be made for His Ldp in the same manner as Lots were reserved to the Proprietors of Pennsylvania at the time that Phila^a was laid out, all the Land whereon that Town stands being at the time vested in the Proprietor who could therefore make his own Terms, & by the surprizing Growth of that City had now great property therein by means of his Reservations above-mentioned, As the Land on which Baltimore Town in particular was built had been granted away by Patent long before any Person thought of erecting a Town there I do not see how any Lotts could have been secured therein for His Ldp unless His Agent had purchased some while they were rated low & thought of little Value, but as you seem to have been misinformed with respect to the Growth of Baltimore Town I must observe to you that altho there is more Business transacted there than at any other of our Maryland Towns, It is in point of both its Trade & Buildings almost as much inferiour to Philad^a as Dover is to London, nor do I suppose that it contains at this time more than two hundred Families, it is however increasing & will probably very soon get the Start of this City tho the number of Houses in this place also hath increased considerably with these few years Having been lately called on by the Lords of Trade for a particular Account