

Counties into which this Province is divided & proper measures taken for the Conveyance of Letters hither from such Offices & hence thither every week the Revenue of the Post Office would after some time be thereby increased & Letters would be conveyed in a very few Days from one End of the Province to the other. In that Case there might be an Office kept at the several Places mentioned in the inclosed List, many of which are noticed in the Maps of this Part of America which have been lately published. It is not at present in my power to transmit His Majesty's Post Master General any such correct Map of Maryland with the Roads described thereon as would be of real Use no actual Survey having been as yet made of this Province but as soon as I can get such a Map I will transmit a Copy to the Post Master General agreeable to Your Lordship's Requisition & Your Lordship may be assured that I shall on all occasions be ready to aid & assist the Post Masters here as far as might be in my power. I am &c.

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Halifax.]

To The Earl of Hallifax. Annapolis the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1764.

My Lord

In obedience to your Commands signified to me by one of Your Ldp's Letters dated the 11<sup>th</sup> of August last I am to inform Your Ldp that I am persuaded very few if any of the Inhabitants of this Province have been concerned in Vessels employed in carrying on any illicit Commerce, but two small Vessels belonging to the Grenades & Virginia were lately seized here for trading without Registers & I am informed that the Collectors of Pocomoke District has within these few Days seized a Vessel with some foreign Molasses on board which the Master concealed at the Time of making his Entry. As there are a great many Rivers & Creeks within this Province into which Vessels coming from Sea may run & unload, it would not I think be in the Power of the Officers of the Customs alone, were there many more than there are here entirely to prevent all illicit Trade, but I am persuaded that none of the Gentlemen who hold such Commissions here would connive at an illicit Trades being carried on or let an Offender when discovered escape with Impunity. I have indeed been told by some of them that Pilot Boats & other small Vessels from Virginia do sometimes come up the Bay & trade without making Entry or obtaining Permits by which means probably small quantities of Contraband Goods may be imported & sold here, but as such Vessels run into Bye Places where they may be unloaded in a few hours before an Officer can be apprized thereof It is not as I have intimated in the