

Letter Bk. IV

of which a Duplicate was transmitted to myself. By the next Ship that sails I shall probably be able to inform Your Ldp whether he seems disposed to pursue the Plan therein laid down & prescribed to him. M<sup>r</sup> Bacon having come to Annapolis the Beginning of the winter in order to Collate or examine his manuscript Acts of Assembly with the Records is still here when he returns again to Frederick County I shall induct him in the usual form to All Saints Parish & shall also execute Your Ldp's Instructions in favour of the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Williamson & M<sup>r</sup> Keene. M<sup>r</sup> Calvert having signified to me your Ldp's Desire to have me procure & send Your Ldp by the first Opportunity two Pipes of Old Madeira Wine & a Hhd of Maryland Burgundy I have used my utmost Endeavours to get for Your Ldp some good Madeira that has been two or three years in the Country but not having been able to succeed to my wishes (for what the Merchants generally import for Sale is of the inferiour Sort) I have sent Your Ldp a Pipe of Madeira that I imported three years ago for my own use & as it is the best & oldest I have I flatter myself it will please your Ldp's Taste. The inclosed Letter will shew Your Ldp that for the Wine which we imported last Summer (& it seems there is no Probability of its price being lower) we were obliged to pay to the Merchant in Madeira at the Rate of £33 stg a Pipe to which if there be added Thirty Shillings for Freight & Premium for Insurance at Seven p<sup>r</sup> Cent, each pipe at our Cellar Doors costs near £37 Stg, which I am told is twice as much as it would sell for here about twelve or fourteen years ago. What I must pay for a Pipe of Wine to replace this I cannot say but if Your Ldp would choose to have a certain quantity sent from hence every year & will be pleased to let me know how much, I will write to my Correspondent in Madeira for such Additional quantity annually & when it hath been a Summer or two meliorating here will ship it to Your Ldp. There hath been no Burgundy made in Maryland since my Arrival except two or three Hhds which Col<sup>o</sup> Tasker made in 1759 this was much admired by all that tasted it in the months of Feb<sup>r</sup> & March following, but in a week or two afterwards it lost both its Colour & Flavour so that no person would touch it & the ensuing winter being a severe one destroyed almost all the Vines.

With the utmost Respect I am My Ld  
Y<sup>r</sup> Ldps &c

P. S. Having been informed since I concluded my Lett<sup>r</sup> that a Ship of Col<sup>o</sup> Lloyds which carries 20 Guns is expected every hour from the West Indies & will be immediately loaded with Tob<sup>o</sup> for London I have not sent the Pipe of Madeira on board this Ship as I intended to do when I wrote the above