

their sole Benefit otherwise the Widow will keep possession. Letter Bk. IV
Having desired M^r Ridout to inform himself what Estate M^r Rhodes died possess't of, he did so & gave me the inclosed Memorandum thereof which if you please you may send to the party that desired you to recommend the Letter to my Care you may remember that you some years ago wish't M^r Young could be otherwise provided for than by the Office of Surveyor General of the Eastern Shore, & said that you should approve of his being appointed a Clerk of some County when a Vacancy should happen & M^r Leeds the best Mathematician in the province who has attended on the Affair of the Dividing Lines either as an Assistant or a Commissioner both now & in the time of His Ldp's Father thinking I presume that such Service gave him some Merit with the Govern^t has at times press't me for a Promise of that Surveyors Office in case it should become vacant: now M^r Key the Clerk of St Mary's County having lately died M^r Dulany thereupon appointed M^r Young Clerk in his stead but at the same time seconded him in his Application to be still continued Surveyor General, & upon my signifying to him that I could not make him any promise with respect to that matter said that he hoped if M^r Young (who married one of his Sisters) was not to hold both Offices he might be continued Surveyor General as in that Case he could make him a present of the Money for which the Clerkship might be sold to some other person, & that he apprehended the liberty of selling the Clerkships was a principal Consideration of the Sum paid you out of the Secretary's Office: to this I only replied that I should not do any thing suddenly in the Affair, nor before I had seen M^r Young & had an Opportunity of talking with him, nor indeed shall I do any thing about it till I can hear from you, but submit the matter entirely to His Ldp's pleasure & only desire to know whether M^r Young is to hold both the Offices or to relinquish the Surveyor General's to some other Person. You will find inclosed two Petitions to His Ldp one of them praying Leave to Escheat a Lot in Annapolis which lately belonged to one M^{rs} Kimbold & on which is a House that might perhaps with the Lot be sold for £300 stg, the other praying an Escheat patent for a Lot & House in Baltimore Town which belonged to the Petitioners Father who died before he was naturalized & therefore could not devise. If His Ldp on a perusal of the Petitions should be inclined to grant the Petitioners Desire you will be pleased to signify to the Agent on what Terms he is to sell the said Lots & Improvements & to send him a particular Order for that purpose otherwise as they lye within Towns he is not at liberty to receive Composition Money for them, & it would I appre-