

much afraid of that Distemper. I do not learn that any one here as yet knows who is to be Distributor of the Stamps in this Province nor have I as yet received from the ministry a Copy of the Act or any Instructions or Letter concerning it. As I hear that both Capt Love & Capt Montgomerie sail'd in April & presume that one or other of them is charg'd with Letters from you I think proper lest you should by this Opportunity expect any Answer to such Letter to inform you that neither of the said Captains are yet arriv'd but as other Ships will sail hence very shortly you may expect to hear from me again very soon after this Letter can reach you. I beg the favour of you on your Receipt of this to present my Duty & best Wishes to His Ldp & to believe that I remain with the greatest Regard & Respect Sir &c.

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

To Lord Baltimore. Annapolis the 15th August 1765
My Ld

On the eleventh of July last I did myself the honour to write to your Ldp a pretty long Letter about various Matters & therefore have little to trouble your Ldp with at present more than my Sentiments on a proposition for Farming the Quit Rents on a new Plan which M^r Calvert in his Letter of the 21st of May says your Ldp directed him to communicate to Me. As I perceive Your Ldp apprehends the Farmers may make some Advantage by receiving at their own Rate or Valuation other Specie in lieu of the Sterling Money which your Ldp's Tenants are by the Tenor of their Patents obliged to pay I must observe to your Ldp that on occasion of a Clamour raised on that very account before I came to the Province it was publickly signified to the people that where Tenants had not Sterling Money or good Bills of Exchange to pay they might discharge their Rents in any foreign Gold at the Rate of £3 17 6 stg p^r oz or in Dollars at four shillings & sixpence each, which they have accordingly done ever since, & was any Farmer of the Rents now to refuse taking such Money at the Rate so long established the Assembly would soon make an uproar about it & therefore I am satisfied the Farmers do not make any Advantage in that way, & indeed both foreign Gold & Silver pass at present in all payments at those Rates. If your Ldp is of opinion that the Commission of Ten p^r Cent which is at this time allowed the Farmers for Collecting the Quit Rents is too much & ought to be reduced I will if Your Ldp approves thereof order the Agent to set them up to the best Bidder & to accept such Persons as Farmers in the several Counties who can give Security for