

the Reduction at once from Ten to Six p^r Cent is so great as to deter any Persons from offering to farm the Rents which I believe will be the Case, perhaps Eight p^r Cent on the Receipt of several Counties join'd together might tempt some Persons to engage, at least a Tryal might be made if your Ldp thinks proper. From Time to Time ever since your Ldp required the Keepers of the Rent Rolls to make out & transmit perfect Rent Rolls of the several Counties with References to the Records in the manner prescribed I have called on & pressed them to proceed therein with all possible Dispatch which they have as often promised to do, but say that the necessity they are under in order to make References thereto of examining the Records of the Provincial & Land Offices Leaf by Leaf takes up so much time that it is near a years work to finish the Rent Roll of one County nevertheless that besides the six already transmitted they have now four others almost ready which they expect to have finished transcribed & examined by the Judges of the Land Office time enough to be sent by some of the Ships that are now loading here. In answer to what M^r Calvert says of your Ldps Dissatisfaction at finding that no Office is yet built at Annapolis for the Reception & as a Repository for the Annual Accounts of your Revenue, Counterparts of Leases, Platts of Mannours, Rent Rolls and other Books & Papers relative to your Ldp's Income here, I can only say that I have very often urged the Agent to have a proper House built for the purpose, but tho he always when spoke to promises to do so, he does nothing therein, nor will he be prevailed on to pursue your Ldps Instruction pointing out to him in precise Terms a Rule for his transacting the Agents Business & settling his Accounts here annually for Examination, as I have told M^r Calvert in many Letters which I wrote to him about Provincial Affairs during the time that your Ldp was on your Travels. The Truth is as I have often said that it is impossible for a Person who has such a Multiplicity of Business of his own to mind & so large an Estate to manage to give so much Attention as he ought to your Ldp's Affairs especially when he lives at a great distance from hence where most of the Business must necessarily be done. It was indeed unlucky that a Person so circumstanced should have been appointed Agent & I question but it would have been better even for him to have declined the Office as it must certainly take up some time & Attention which might be well employed about the Management of his own large Estate, but I am apt to think he will of his own Accord never resign the Agency & that he would be chagrin'd was he to be deprived of it without the Offer of some other Office, & as M^r Calvert hinted to me in one of his