

Letter Bk. IV Williamsburg College & is represented to be a very worthy man I have applied for His Ldp's Leave to give him a Parish in this Province where if he behaves well he might hereafter expect better preferment than there is in Virginia where the Livings are pretty equal. In answer to the postscript added to your Letter in pursuance of a Message sent you by His Ldp I can only say that I have from time to time pressed the Agent & Rent Roll Keepers to make out & transmit perfect Rent Rolls & Accounts of His Ldps Revenue agreeable to the Instructions given them & they have as often assured me that they were diligent in making out such Rent Rolls, but that in order to make the References required there was a necessity for examining all the Land Office & Provincial Records Page by Page which is a tedious Task & must be repeated for every County Rentall & they now tell me that besides the six Rent Rolls already finished there are others in such forwardness that you may expect to receive three or four more by some of the Ships that will sail hence in the Fall & they promise me that they will not slacken their Diligence till the Rolls are all compleated. With regard to His Ldps Supposition that Persons might be got to farm the Quit Rents without any Salary or Commission or at most for a Commission of Six p^r Cent I have told His Ldp that if he pleases they shall be set up to the Best Bidder but at the same time I believe no Body will offer to farm them on lower Terms than are at present allowed, for the obliging the Sheriffs to farm them at Ten p^r C^t is really considered as a Burthen on that Office in almost every County & I do assure you that I could not find a Man last year in Frederick County who would accept the Sheriffs Office on that Condition, so that I was under a necessity of appointing a Person who lived in Prince Georges County & who was the only Man I heard of that would be tempted by the hope of Gain from the Sheriffs Office to farm the Quit Rents of Frederick County, & I wish he may not have reason before the End of the three years to repent of his Undertaking for his three Predecessors in the joint Offices of Sheriff & Farmer are said to have been Losers by them; it being impossible for them to collect many Rents for which they are obliged to account to the Agent, or at least not possible for them to collect some of them without more Expence & Trouble than such Rents amount to. His Ldp seems to think that the Farmers might gain something considerable by receiving the Rents at their own Valuation but that is really impossible for as there was an Order given & published in the late Lord's Time that where the Tenants had not Sterling Money they might discharge their quit Rents in Dollars at four shillings & sixpence each & in Gold at £3 17 6 p^r oz All the Farmers