

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

Letter Bk.IV

To Lord Baltimore.

Annapolis March 1767.

My Lord

Since I did myself the honour to write to your Ldp the 7th December when the last Ship saild for London from this Province I have had the Satisfaction to receive the several Letters with which your Ldp was pleased to favour me the 22^d, 25th, & 28th of Sept^r & 2^d & 6th of Nov^r last. There being some Livings on the Eastern Shore of considerable Value vacant at the Time M^r Allen arrived here I immediately offered him his Choice of them but the One of them was worth about £230 sterling a year he signified to me that it would be much more agreeable to him to be inducted into this Parish which does not at most exceed £180 if I could vacate it by the Removal of the then Rector which therefore I immediately did so that M^r Allen will continue to reside in this Place until some more valuable Parish on this Side the Bay becomes vacant which will I expect be the Case very shortly. It being enacted by a Law pass't here in 1702 that no Minister or Incumbent shall at one Time hold more than two Parishes nor Two unless by the Desire or Agreement of the Vestry of the said adjacent Parish & Consent of the Vestry where he resides (which consent none of the Vestries choose to give) M^r Allen cannot in its full extent receive the Benefit of your Ldp's Instruction in his Favour but your Ldp may be assured that the Regard you express for that Gentleman will make me ready & desirous to oblige him on every Occasion. I am now to return your Ldp Thanks for that rare Wine you were so kind as to send Me by M^r Allen who having delivered it to me upon his arrival except three Bottles which the Sailors had made free with I produced to the Company that dined with me on your Ldp's Birth Day enough to toast the Donors Health tho in order to fill a Decanter I was under a necessity of broaching four of the Bottles owing I suppose to its not having been ashore long enough to become fine. As soon as I received M^r Hamersley's Letter with authenticated Copies of the Settlements made in 1698 & prior to your Ldps Marriage I delivered them to M^r Dulany to have them recorded in the Secretary's or Provincial Office agreeable to your Ldps Instructions & that all who may be inclined to purchase any part of the Mannours may judge for themselves or advise with Lawyers how these Deeds could operate they will be shewn by our Clerk to any Person desiring a Sight of them. I need not I hope tell your Ldp that it was not in order to give M^r Calvert Satisfaction that the Commissioners applied for Copies of those Settlements but that we might be able to shew any Persons inclined to bid for Parcels of either of the