

Letter Bk. IV

speaking hath been hitherto considered as belonging to the Town for a Publick Ship Yard being laid out in the Original Plan for that purpose. many Ships have from time to time been built & repaired thereon & One is but just launched thence. If His Ldp can grant a Fee-simple therein It would I suppose sell for a hundred & fifty or two hundred Pounds sterling, but the Corporation may probably think themselves obliged to dispute the Right with any Person obtaining Patent. This is the first Opportunity I have had since they were printed of transmitting Copies with the Great Seal appendant of All the Acts of Assembly that were made at the last November Session & of a printed Copy of the Journal of the Proceedings in the Lower House; With the Laws I have inclosed Observations on some of them but few of them are of such a Nature as to make any Remarks of mine on them necessary. It having been represented to me that upon the Death of a German who was possessed of some Land in Frederick County & had not been naturalized an indifferent Person had applied to the Land Office to Escheat the said Land & take it away from the Family of the Deceased I interfered so far as to forbid a Patent's issuing thereon untill His Lordship should be advised thereof, imagining that as he sometime ago was pleased to signify his Willingness to pass an Act for Confirming to the Heirs of Aliens the Lands such Aliens might die possessed of he would not countenance the Depriving their Children of what would descend to them in case such an Act had passed. The Reason such an Act did not pass was that the Upper House thought its Benefits should be extended to all Aliens alike while the Lower were for restraining His Ldp's gracious Indulgence to the Children of Protestant Aliens only. if His Ldp is still inclined to favour Aliens & their Children he may certainly do so as well without as with an Act for nothing more seems necessary than an Instruction to the Judges of His Land Office to grant no Patent nor Warrant to any Person whatever for Land become or to become Escheat by the Death of an Alien other than to him her or them who would have inherited the same had such Alien dying seized been naturalized; His Ldp might also by an Instruction to his Agent direct the usual Caution Money to be paid by the Aliens Representative applying for an Escheat Patent or that Patent of Confirmation should be granted without the Payment of any Caution whatever. In Consequence of Your telling me that His Ldp having no Pre-dilection for any of the Gentlemen I had recommended to fill up the Vacancies in the Council left it to Myself to select which Two I thought best qualified & most proper I should have immediately introduced to the Council M<sup>r</sup> Robert Goldsborough the