

he seems a dangerous Man and I had little Inclination to converse with him, tho' he much pressed for a particular recommendation to your Excellency, or rather to Colonel Loyd, and I am not certain but you may soon see him again, upon his former Errand. A 3^d Claimant, in the Person of M^r Ja^s Plunkett has also attended me, and he Claims as Heir at Law to Talbot according to the Pedigree in the Enclosed Papers (3 and 4) upon the double supposition of the Invalidity both of the Conviction, and Will, the latter being made as he says in Spain, and never proved or capable of being so (which I Presume is the Evidence Mapother wanted) and he likewise throws himself upon his Lordship for a reasonable accomodation in preference to Hostilities. You will easily Imagine that, pleased as I might be to see all the different Claimants at my feet, I entred into little Correspondence with any of them, but referred them all to Lay their Proposals by their Agents before your Excellency, as being best acquainted with the subject and upon the Spot, and to whose Advice his Lordship would pay the greatest Deference, at the same time rather submitting to recede a little from his strict rights, than be involved in Litigation, or protract the Business further, and in this Light his Lordship desires you will please to Consider the Affair, Agreeing If you can with such of the Claimants, who appear to have the best right, by Preferring them to a Lease or Grant, or in any other more Eligible Method; Or, If you see nothing favourable in any of the Claims (& perhaps the Heir at Law has the best Title of any of them) by accepting attornments from and Preferring the present Possessors, on their undertaking to support his Lordship's Right agreeable to the method you have already taken by the Advice of M^r Dulany, for I fancy after all the Possession will be found the best Title, and whatever Engagements may be found necessary to be Entred into will be sure of receiving his Lordships Indemnity. But, as the Game seems now to be in our hands, I should be sorry to miss it, and, If your Excellency should not happily be able to Conciliate, or remove the different Claims (for I have referred them all to you) you will be so good as to Acquaint me with your Proceedings, accompanied with your advice in what manner to Treat here, as I Presume the Treaty will in that case be again Proposed to be Opened, when we receive our answers from Maryland, or some other Attack may be made here, as in the Case of Brerewood, for Plunket is a Gentⁿ of Fortune. Or, If you are Satisfyed it is better to stand upon our own Ground, Your Excellencys Example will be the rule for me to follow.

His Lordship entirely Submits to you and the other Commissioners whether to raise or not the Quit rents on the new