

Letter Bk. V   pared except with regard to some Debts which cannot be got in at present to close his Accounts & to submit them & his Vouchers to our Examination for a final Settlement & we have agreed to proceed on & go thro what remains to be adjusted the Beginning of September when M<sup>r</sup> Dulany will return from Baltimore County where he passes the Summer & M<sup>r</sup> Jordan be more at leisure than at present to attend that Business, the Books & Papers relative to his Ldp's Revenue now in the hands of his Agent will then too be removed into the Repository or Office which is now finished. On my shewing the Gentlemen of the Council who reside here the Answer you with His Lordships Approbation returned to the Application that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Stewart & Sedgley made for a Dissent to the Quarantine Act they expressed the greatest Satisfaction & think my Communicating those Letters to the Assembly at their next Meeting will have a Tendancy to make Them entertain grateful Sentiments & just Notions of His Lordships Attention to the Welfare of the Province & at the same time lessen in some measure the Weight & Influence of M<sup>r</sup> Ringgold who hath always been in the Opposition for he certainly lays himself very open by his manner of writing about the Act several of his Allegations being contrary to Truth & his whole Letter extremely futile. That the Distempers the Importation & spreading of which the Act is calculated to prevent have been frequently brought into this & many other Places in the Province & that Scores of People have been destroyed here by the Jail Fever first communicated by Servants from on board crowded infectious Ships is notorious & there is the greatest reason to believe that by that Distemper communicated last Fall to M<sup>rs</sup> Blake's Family in Queen Annes County thro a Convict imported from Bristol the Lady herself & more than 20 Negroes died in the space of about two Months, how absurd then was M<sup>r</sup> Ringgold's proposed Amendment to the Title of the Bill (which however I do not understand he ever made at least in publick) for an Act to prevent the Depopulation of Maryland would not have been a very improper Title to the Act he would have called "a Bill to prevent the Peopling of a Young Country" May there not be a continual Influx of People into the Province without bringing more in a Vessel than she can well contain, or have we no Servants imported in Vessels that belong to other Merchants than the two Contractors who have thought fit on this Occasion to bestir themselves, the Truth is that many Servants are imported annually from different parts of England Scotland & Ireland but the Masters do not often receive more on board than can be conveniently accommodated while those Contractors who have only a certain Number