

Excellency has already done, Yet he thinks it too much to give away so Considerable an Employment, without being asked, or thanked for it, and rather regrets his own situation, which deprives him of All the Merit of the Grant, and only leaves him exposed to the Odium of the refusal, or rather removal, If he was to do otherwise, than approve what has been already done, without his Privity; and he desires your Excellency will not for the future Dispose of any Civil Employs, in favor of any particular Persons, till his pleasure be previously known, and where they cannot be kept Vacant for a sufficient time, that you will put them in Commission to such Persons, who can pretend to no further Claims, and to whom a Subsequent Negative may be safely given, for you may easily guess applications are not wanting even here for his Lordships favor.

His Lordship very well remembers to have seen Colonel Plater, but does not immediately recollect any Promise made him of succeeding to the Place of Naval Officer; However, If he should Decline it, his Lordship Considers the Promise as Discharged, and in that Case you are to give it to M^r Allen, or reserve it for his Lordship's own immediate disposal.

Whilst I am Writing this his Lordship has put into my hands your Letter to him of 10. Sep^r and has directed me to return you his thanks for the Duplicates of the Papers sent to Lord Shelburn, and to express his Satisfaction in the Accounts you have sent to that Lord, tho' had they been less Circumstantial and particular he would have liked them better. Your Compliance with any future requisitions of the same Sort he leaves to your own Prudent Caution, and discretion, without any further restraint, than to do as little as you possibly can, and not only to continue sending him Copys of what you write, but also, If you think proper, to Transmit your answers through him, under a Flying Seale, to be delivered, or not, at his own peril.

The Bills for £1766 14 9½ in part of the Sales of Ann Arundel Manor are safely arrived and it is with great pleasure his Lordship finds that business so happily begun.

I have an Intimation from the Lords of Trade that they shall soon require my Attendance, with that of other Gentlemen Corresponding with the Northern Colonies, upon Affairs relative to those Colonys in general; What they are is not yet said, but I apprehend they mean to Enquire what Progress has been made in settling the Interior parts of the Country, and towards Prosecuting the Cultivation of a Trade with the Indians.

I have already mentioned to your Excellency in my last the Affair of Talbot Manor. In addition I have only to trouble