

Approbation but as M^r Tilghman had refused to accept & the Board were of Opinion that I could not answer it to your Ldp or indeed be secure myself if I delayed any longer to appoint some other responsible Person & One capable of giving good Security Agent in M^r Allens stead I flatter myself your Ldp considering how Matters were circumstanced will approve of my Conduct, at least it is such as will prevent your Ldp's suffering any Loss or Disappointment. Had the Gentleman who mentioned M^r Tilghman & M^r Carroll as Persons most proper to be appointed of the Council been acquainted with a hundredth part of what has pass't here during the time I have been in the Province he would have been sensible that they could not with any Propriety or consistency qualify or in case of their qualifying act in such a manner as your Ldp would naturally wish them to do, for my part I have always thought it good policy to confer Offices & Honours when it was in my power on such as had by their publick Conduct shewn themselves Friends & Wellwishers to your Ldps Government, but this Consideration (your Ldp will I hope excuse me for speaking my Sentiments so freely to yourself) does not appear to have had the most Weight in the Nomination of the two Gentlemen I have already mentioned, of the Appointment of M^r Merewether to be Keeper of the Western Shore Rent Roll, or of the peculiar Mark of Honour & Favour shewn to M^r Lee who has this Day produced to me your Ldps Commission appointing him Surveyor General of the Western Shore an Office that has for a great Number of years (I believe ever since the Government of the Province was restored to your Ldps Grandfather) been held by the Lieut^t Governor, I do not My Ld mention this as if I gave it up to M^r Lee with Reluctance, the Value of it to Me while I am to have the honour of continuing in my present Station would be very inconsiderable but the Construction every Person here will put on a Commission's being sent by M^r Jordan to M^r Lee for that Office is very obvious. Since both M^r Tilghman & M^r Carroll decline qualifying as Members of the Council & M^r Chamberlaine & Col^o Lloyd are desirous that other Members may be appointed in their stead, it would not perhaps be amiss for your Ldp to authorize Captain Eden as soon as he may think expedient after his Arrival here to fill the five vacant Seats with such Gentlemen as he may judge fit to be Members of the Council especially as Col^o Hammond who is now the eldest Member is in an ill State of health & very old.

Apprehending from some Letters I at times have received from both M^r Calvert & M^r Hamersley that your Ldp was desirous to have some more Manors laid out & reserved as soon as the East & West Boundary Line should be run I last