

power to refuse since we are by the Articles of Agreement & our Commissions directed to run a Tangent & no such Tangent hath been yet run & probably never will; You will therefore I hope consider what we do (whether it may or may not be thought best) as done not by Choice but out of necessity; & believe that engaged as we are in an embarrassed & most disagreeable Business we shall each of us endeavour to the best of our Judgment to discharge our Duty to His Ldp. If the Northern Boundary should be run in my time (for I begin to suspect it will not be finished in haste) you may depend on my paying due Attention to what you say concerning its being extended as far west as the Meridian of that Branch of Potowmack which is commonly called the South Branch & which as laid down in all the Maps takes its Rise farther west than the other or northern Branch; & you may remember that soon after my Arrival in the Province I wrote to Lord Fairfax thereupon who has no Objection to the South Branche's being deemed & settled as the Bounds of this Province in case Lord Baltimore can obtain the Crown's Consent. I am much surprized the late Lord Baltimore could let the Virginia Commissioners settle the North Branch as Ld Fairfax's Boundary without desiring to be first heard & to have the two Branches actually surveyed, but as the Commissioners settled it as abovementioned I do not apprehend that I can do any thing to prevent Lord Fairfax's settling the Land which he now calls part of his Grant or Territory. In Consequence of His Ldp's Instructions I ordered the Agent some years ago to pay M^r Cresap one hundred Pounds for the Services he had done before my Arrival in pursuance of Governor Ogle's Orders, he cannot therefore have the least pretence to apply for farther Reward; whoever told you that he is in Distress must I believe have represented him in an improper light, for he is supposed to have made a good Estate; some say not altogether by fair means; he has for some time past been a Member of our Assembly where his Conduct has been far from agreeable to me having contributed all that was in his power to render me uneasy tho he is a person of so little Consequence that had it not been for his Letter to you I should not have thought of mentioning him. As you are desirous that M^r Nicholson should be appointed Sheriff of Kent County I will when that Office becomes vacant remember your Recommendation. M^r M^cLocklan lives in the same County so that were I ever so desirous to serve him also you see it would not be in my power. I shall be well pleased if His Ldp approves of old M^r Key to be a Member of the Council & shall for my part be as well satisfied at M^r Bordley's resigning to his Son young M^r Key the Office of Attorney