

Touching Collectors and other Officers.

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The District of Patuxent by the Settlement of the Comm<sup>rs</sup> of the Customs takes in all the Bay of Cheasopeak (except Somerset county) The Mapp will best shew the extent of it and how many rivers and bays it comprehends. But by the two Acts for Towns which his Ex<sup>ty</sup> hath passed formerly for the Encouragement of Trade Ports were designed at Annapolis and Williamstadt where the Collector or his Deputy were Oblig'd to reside with the Navall Officer as also the Lord Baltimore's officer as the Law directs.

Quære of the Merchants trading up the Bay several of which have petition'd to be enter'd at those Ports, whither it be not more convenient for the Trade of the Country that shippes and vessells coming to west, Rode and South Rivers which three are very nigh to Annapolis And those Shippes that goe above it to Baltimore and Cecill Countys since they sail just by the mouth of that Port should enter and cleer there And there Vessells that trade to little Choptank, Kent, Hole, Miles and Wye Rivers, and to Williamstadt should not enter and cleer at Williamstadt those places all adjoyning to that town and port it being very troublesome and often dangerous for them to enter and cleer at Patuxent, and impossible for the officers there to look after shippes bound up the Bay and to places is farr distant from one another.

There is nothing to be objected to this but the lessening of profitts of the Collector of Patuxent, And that it would be much more for his Ma<sup>ty's</sup> interest there should be fewer places for shippes to ride in the masters of them will all acknowledge (except such Merchants as keep factors whose interest it is to keep the Trade disperst to the dammage of the Country) The Officers in those places being near the shippes which enter with them and easily visit and look after them which the other officers cannot.

His Excellency therefore proposes that a Collector be placed at Chester River and up the Bay only on that side since that officer will be ready on all occasions to goe by land to the head of his District in Cecill County, as the Collector of Annapolis will be to goe to the head of Baltimore The difficulty of passage being most in winter and spring which are the chief times of Trade.

Herring Bay to remain in Patuxent Dictrict.

By the appointment of the Comm<sup>rs</sup> of the Customes there are but three districts in Maryland viz. Patuxent Patomeck and Pocomoke in Somerset County and the same reasons still remain for having a small Frigot to cruise in the Bay as have been before proposed, especially for punishing refractory seamen and securing them from running away, concerning