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The Act will expire, on Condition there be no additional Duty imposed on them. In fact the Twenty Shillings of which Mr. Stewart complains is paid by the Purchaser to whom the Contractor's Factors sell the Convicts accordingly; but if it would be more agreeable to imagine the Lower House might be prevailed on to take the Duty off the Importer & pay it on the Purchaser. It is the Opinion of our Lawyers as it was the Intention of the Assembly that the Naval Officers are obliged by their Oath & the Words of the Act to demand the Duty of Twenty Shillings on every Convict that is imported & sold as a Servant for Seven Years, & if you please to recur to the Account of Importations you will see that from that Duty will arise a great Part of the Money that is to sink the £6000 that was granted by that Act, so that if that Part of the Act was to be rejected, the Ordinary Licences will stand mortgaged for 3 or 4 Years longer than they are (if the Act stands as it is) at present engaged for. I have left nothing undone to get the Mannors planted as you desire returned me, but have not been yet able to get them all; however I hope to have them soon when they shall be properly entered in one Book & transmitted by the first Opportunity. Your Scheme for collecting the Rents by the Sheriff we are now putting in execution, I have engaged all the Sheriffs on this Side the Bay to farm at 10<sup>th</sup> Ct & they are now executing proper Inventures for that purpose & Col<sup>o</sup> Lloyd is doing the same on the Eastern Shore