

to His Majesty's Train in America, but as the Stores & especially the Powder is for want of a proper Magazine in a good deal of Danger from the Enemy I submit to Your Ldp. whether it would not be better to have it removed down to the inhabited parts of the Country till there shall be an immediate Use for it. Besides the Stores mentioned in the inclosed Return there were in the Custody of one Mr Carlyle in Virg. <sup>20</sup> 20 Barrels of Irish Beef, 230 Barrels of Irish Butter & 21 Barrels of Flour but as some Troops that I have kept up for the Protection of our Back Inhabitants ever since Gen. Dunbar left us were some time since much distressed for provisions before I was impowered by the Assembly to supply them I ventured to draw on Mr Carlyle for 100 Barrels of the Beef & I hear that the Rest is removed to Linchester a Town on the Frontiers of Virg. for the Use of the Militia that Governor Dinwiddie has ordered thither for the People's Defence.

To John Sharps Esq. the 7 of June 1756.

I have in a former Lett intimated that there are several Matters about which Disputes have subsisted many Years between the Ld Proprietary & the People of this Province which have & will still they are determined prevent any harmony or Union between the several Branches of the Legislature at this time particularly so desirable & requisite & which therefore we should unanimously study to bring about & promote. The two principal Bones of Contention or Matters in Dispute are a Port Duty of Fourteen pence a Ton on all Vessels owned by Non Residents that trade to this Province; & an Imposition of One Shilling a Hoghead on all Tobo exported; The first amounts to about £200 or £300 <sup>per Annum</sup> which is received by His Ldp. for his own private Use; The latter does rarely exceed £1400 in one Year the greater part of which is paid by His Ldp's Agent to His Lieut Govern: by way of an Annual Salary & the Remainder is paid to His Ldp himself. The People have been instructed & made to believe that these Duties are collected illegally, they have been taught to look on it as a grievous Burthen & Oppression & to take Occasion thence to clamour against His Ldn's Govern: Attempts have been made by the Lower House of Assembly to obtain a Sum of Money, or an Act for the Appointment of an Agent to bring the Matter to a Hearing before His Majesty in Council; but the Lord Proprietaries have always used their Influence & Interest to oppose such a Measure; whether this proceeded from Timidity or a Suspicion that the Government would not be able to make good its Claim I cannot say but it certainly has much contributed to confin