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have Recourse, or Access to those Records he must always reside in Annapolis, which was Mr Bacon to do & leave his Parish, at this time on such an Account; there would be such an Outcry against him as You can scarcely have an Idea of. his personal Enemies (& he has not a few) together with those who are distinguish'd here by the false Appellation of Patriots knowing (& know they must) what he was employed about & for what purpose, all the Offices & Records were open to him, would stick at Nothing that might render him odious & infamous; every Trailing he has been heretofore guilty of would be exaggerated, the Assembly would not scruple by Parole or other Methods to insinuate a thousand Falshoods & I may venture to say that on such an Occasion His Brethren (many of whom have never distinguish'd themselves for their Gratitude, to the Ld Proprietary) would most cheerfully join the Cry: A Clergyman taken from the Parishioners by whom he is supported, & who by Law are obliged to support him to vindicate an ill Administration! would be one of the Exclamations I should expect to hear echoed thro' the Province; & long would be the Catalogue of Vices whereof His Ldp. as well as His Lieut. Governour might expect to be accused. These Considerations having made me decline Communicating Your Proposal to Mr Bacon, I have talked to Mr Ridout on the Subject who I know had sometime ago Thoughts of Writing or at least of Collecting Materials for a History of the Province from its first Settlement: He says that when he had Occasion to turn over & examine the Old Records Council Books &c. at the time that he drew up that

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