

State or Historical Account of the Revenue Laws which, I some time ago sent You & for which You desired me to return him His Ldps Thanks, he found the Records down so low as 1703 so very deficient (many having been destroyed by fire, & some lost as he mentions during the Confusion that was in the Province about the time of the Revolution & accounts of many Transactions being imperfectly entered, in those that remain.) that he imagines it would be impossible to compile a History from the Records that are in the Province; but whether the Defects of those Books can be supplied from the Books & Papers relative to the Province, which are in His Ldps Possession, I do not know. Since I am on this Subject I cannot help intimating to You that to Mr. Bidouls having perused & examined the Records the Gentlemen of the Upper House were indebted for their Knowledge about the Act of 1650 exempting the Ld Proprietary from contributing thenceforward to the Support of any war for the Defence of the Province. But tho' a History of Maryland from its first Settlement cannot be compiled in a short time & without much Difficulty yet as You intimate that if Mr. Franklin or any other Person of the same Principles was to publish any thing in order to asperse & calumniate His Ldp or His Lieut: Governor on Account of the Administration of the Govern: during the present War You should be at a Loss for Materials to frame an Answer, I will as soon as possible transmit You a continued Narrative of the Assemblys Proceedings since that Period, which I think will be sufficient to convince impartial Judges that whatever were their Professions & Pretences their Study from the Beginning hath been by all means to avoid granting Supplies for His Majesty's Service & to increase their own Power. Would it