

Members of the Council I do not know; but imagine, it could not
be on account of their extraordinary Abilities for scarcely any of
them except Mr Thomas whose Understanding & Capacity were never
questioned have ever taken upon themselves to pen a common Message
yet all of them except Mr Thomas enjoy Lucrative Offices, & as it plea-
sed the late Ld. Proprietary to distinguish them by peculiar Marks
of Favour I shall only say that if they are now found deficient either
in Point of Understanding or Affection to the Ld. Proprietary I hope
their Failure, or Defects will not be attributed to Me who had no
hand in their Promotion. I now proceed to consider Your Scheme for
gaining & securing a Majority in the Lower House of Assembly, which
it supposes may be done by conferring the Offices of Sheriffs, Deputy
Sheriffs & Deputy Commissioners on such Members as should be tractable
enough to follow the Directions which it might be thought fit to give
them. That it would be good Policy to reward, if possible every One
of the Delegates that act a moderate Part in the Lower House, & manifest
a good Disposition to preserve Order & promote the Prosperity of the Province
is my sincere Opinion & I have adopted & pursued this Measure as often as
it lay in my power; but that hath not always been the Case. You know
that I have at times been obliged to bestow Sheriffs & other Offices
in Obedience to His Ld's or Your Instructions on Persons who not only
had not Interest enough to be Elected themselves but also espoused the
Interest of such (being some how connected with them) as were known
to be Enemies to good Order & the Proprietary Govern't. Many have also
been appointed at the Solicitation of His Ld's Agents whose Recommenda-
tions