

multifarious or difficult to be understood, or does the Business of the Agent
make it absolutely necessary that he should understand Algebra or the
Doctrine of Fluxions. Is it not enough for him to be Master of the
four first Rules of Arithmetic, & to know how a Set of Books ought
to be kept; & if you can suppose my Knowledge does not yet
extend so far, am I so deficient in point of Capacity as not to be able
in a few Days to learn what is often taught to Children under ten Years
of Age. then as to my being unacquainted with the Laws of the Province
could I in that Case have been qualified for or been destined to the
Commissary's Office, or even to a part of it, when by Virtue of such Com:
mission to me I must have sat as Judge in a Supreme Court & have
had perhaps to determine various & intricate Points of Law, & as that is
an Office in which all the People of the Province are more or less interested
they might take the Liberty to scrutinize & perhaps to dispute my Quali:
fications. Had Mr Allen I say talk'd to me in this strain on my refu:
sing to admit him to the Agency what Answer could I have given him?
Had he been appointed Commissary where could he have procured
the two sufficient Sureties having visible Landed Estates to the Value
of £3000 to join with him in the Bond directed by Act of Assembly to
be given previous to the Commissary's entering upon his Office when upon
being appointed Agent he could only offer as his Security Mr Mewether
of Virginia whom he had engaged as his Clerk, & who had not the
smallest Landed Estate in this Province or any where else that I have
heard of. Upon the Whole I am clearly of Opinion that there was
infinitely more propriety in appointing Mr Allen His Lds Agent than
Commissary General, the latter Office he could not have executed by Deputy,
but it was very possible for him to get for a handsome Salary a Person
in every respect qualified to do or assist him in doing the Business of the
Agent's Office, & in case of any little Slips he would not be responsible to
the whole Province, while too the Board of Revenue here would rec:
tify any Errors & be always ready to advise him. Having already
touch'd on that part of your Letter which seems to imply that by the
appointment of Mr Allen to the Agency Col Lloyd was abruptly dismissed
when His Lds Intention was to have parted civilly with him, I shall only