

My Lord We have the Honour of your Lordship's  
Letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> of September Last Transmitting to us the  
Address that had been presented to the Lord Baltimore and to your  
Lordship by the upper & lower houses of the General Assembly  
of Maryland, wherein Maurice Birchfield Esq. Surveyor  
General of the Southern Continent of America is represented to have  
put severall hardships on the Inhabitants of Maryland by  
manner of his Proceedings against severall persons who  
were debtors to Merchants that had failed considerably  
& indebted to his Maj:<sup>ty</sup> for the duties on Tob:<sup>o</sup> in this port We  
having Examined into his Conduct in those matters do not find  
the said Birchfield has done any more than his duty; and  
we take this Opportunity to acquaint your Lordship  
that it appears to us by sev:<sup>l</sup> Instances that his Majesties Service  
has suffered by the Obstruction the said Birchfield has met with  
from Gov: Ward & Lieut Governor of Maryland, we therefore  
Desire that your Lordship will be pleas'd to direct the  
said Gov: Gov: not to Obstruct his Majesties Service  
under our Management, But that he will be assisting to  
the Officers of the Customs in his Government as by  
Law he is required to do, in the due performance of their  
Duties as well in putting the Laws in Execution against  
Illegal trade, as for recovering the money and Effects  
due to his Majesty in that Province

We are my Lord

Y<sup>r</sup>: Lordship

Most humble Servants

Walter Young

J. Fullency

J. Walker

To the Right Honble the Lord

Guilford

(Charles)

Customs House

13<sup>th</sup> December 1718

(Directed)