

his own merit. His Lord^p requests such an Answer from y^r Excellency as he may be able to shew L^d Essex & his desire to oblige the Earl makes him Interest himself more than ordinarily in the business

I am with usual respect
Your Excellencys
Most obed^t Faithful Humble
Serv^t Hugh Hamersley

[R. J. Henry to Sharpe.]

Original.

Sir

I have the Hon^r of your letter of the 15th last month, inclosing your Excell^y's Instructions to me as Naval Officer of Pocomoke, to which I shall pay due regard, and shall endeavour to have them observ'd by my Deputies. I also rec'd the letters and papers you were pleas'd to send for my perusal, which have done and now carefully return them.

I observe by M^r Heron's letter, his Application is to gain your Excellency's Approbation of moving the Collectors Office from Wicocomoco to Nanticoke as the Center of Trade: and this seems to be inforced by sundry persons request to M^r Heron and Council's opinion on the Fortieth Instruction to M^r Heron. I apprehend the Inducement to this Application is M^r Herons moving his place of Residence from Wico^o in Somerset County to Dorchester County where he has Purchased a Seat of Land. It is well known to your Excellency that the District of Pocomoke is of considerable Extent and particularly Circumstanced in regard to the Inletts upon the Seaboard side and the many Creeks and Rivers within its Limitts making out of the Bay of Chesepeak; and as the River Nanticoke is the very Extream part of the District to the Northward, it therefore can by no means be Central to the Trade of the District in General, and should the Custom House be keep'd at Vienna only it would by no means be convenient for the Trade in General. True it is that more of the comon Trading Vessels come into Nanticoke than any of the other Rivers within this District, but it is as true that the few ships we have from Great Brittain of late years have all lay'd in Wicomoco River, and it is probable they may for some time continue, and there are other Trading Vessels which frequent that River as well as all the other Rivers in the lower part of the District, and as it is Impracticable to suit the Office to the Ease of the Trader in every part of the District, and forasmuch as the Trade may be fluctuating in Different parts of it, so the placing the Office as Central as conveniently may be for the Trade of the District in General seems to me the most Natural Intention of the Instruction.