

Letter Bk. V tho some of them if the Sheriff is very active diligent punctual & well acquainted with the People of his County & their Circumstances may be worth £300 a year yet the Instances of Peoples injuring their Fortune by undertaking these Offices have been very common owing to their not being in a sufficient degree possess't of the above mention'd Qualifications; The Security too that a Sheriff must give is very considerable & I believe there has been no Instance since the Settlement of the Province of Persons being appointed till he had resided some time at least in the Province nor indeed would it be possible for an entire Stranger such as M<sup>r</sup> Hackman is to discharge the Duty of the Office; but if His Ldp pleases he might after he is of Age be appointed to a Sheveralty when by residing some time in the County he shall have acquired knowledge enough to carry him thro the Business. Besides the Offices of Clerks & Sheriffs in the several Counties there is also in each a Deputy Commissary nominated by the Commissary Gen<sup>l</sup> but these Offices are of small Value scarcely any of them being worth more than £20 or £30 stg a year & as the Commission issues from the Commissary Gen<sup>l</sup> they must be conferred on People who have resided three years in the County & are possess't of a Freehold. There is also in every County a Deputy Surveyor for executing Land Warrants, who in order that they may properly discharge their Duty should be pretty well acquainted with the Lands in their respective Counties, two or three of these Offices may perhaps bring in near £200 a year, but they earn it dearly the Duty being very slavish, & the Rest of them are so little worth that few Gentlemen in case of a Vacancy make Application for a Commission. One half only of these Deputy Surveyors are appointed by me, those on the Eastern Shore holding their Commissions from M<sup>r</sup> Benj. Young Clk of S<sup>t</sup> Mary's County who some years ago on his Marriage with a Daughter of M<sup>rs</sup> Hide His Ldp's Aunt was appointed Surveyor Gen<sup>l</sup> of the Eastern Shore an Office worth I suppose about £60 or £70 stg. since her Death he married a Sister of M<sup>r</sup> Dulanys who bestowed on him the Clerkship of S<sup>t</sup> Mary's & secured to him as I presume the Continuation of his other Office also. As I doubt not but His Ldp & you have long ago received an Acco<sup>t</sup> of M<sup>r</sup> Allens succeeding Col<sup>o</sup> Lloyd in the Agency in Consequence of His Ldps pleasure signified to me by your Letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> & of my desiring Major Jenifer to take Charge of the Western Shore Rent Roll till His Ldp shall give particular Orders concerning the Keeping it for the future I can only say in answer to what you write with regard to M<sup>r</sup> Allen & the Prohibition with respect to my disposing of those Offices that I have from the moment that Gentleman arrived