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[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

Annapolis 27th March 1760.

My Lord

Having been just now informed that Col^o William Goldsborough whom Your Ldp was sometime ago pleased to appoint a Member of the Council & Upper House is so extreemly ill that his Life is despaired of I take the Liberty to transmit this by the Way of N York to advise Your Ldp thereof & at the same time to recommend to Your Lordship's favourable Notice a Gentleman whom I hope you will think worthy of it, & of succeeding Col^o Goldsborough in Case the Distemper with which he is afflicted should carry him off. The Person in whose behalf I am thus addressing Your Ldp is M^r Ridout who came with me from England in the Character of my Secretary having been introduced to my Brother Doctor Sharpe by the Professor of Hebrew in the University of Oxford where he had studied near five years & taken a Degree. Your Ldp may probably remember that he had the honour of being in Your Ldp's Company together with myself two or three times tho not long enough perhaps to be much noticed. Ever since my Arrival in Maryland he has resided with me as a Companion still acting as my private Secretary which Your Ldp will imagine hath given him more opportunities than any other Gentleman could have of making himself acquainted with your Ldps Affairs & with whatever has in earlier times as well as during my Administration been transacted in the Province. I need not I apprehend assure Your Ldp that unless I was entirely satisfied with his Conduct since he has been known to me I should not presume to mention him in this manner; & since Your Ldp in Dec^r 1756 was pleased to return him Thanks (as M^r Calvert signified to me in a Letter of that Date) for his Assiduity in turning over all the Council Records in Order to draw up an historical Acco^t or State of the several Revenue Laws which had been passed here since the Settlement of the Country I flatter myself Your Ldp had from that Performace conceived a good Opinion of him & that therefore it would be unnecessary for me to say any thing more in his favour, than that I am persuaded if Your Ldp shall be pleased to employ him he will be always ready to devote his best Abilities to your Ldps Service. Having lately received another Circular Letter from M^r Sec^y Pitt I have once more convened the Assembly & press'd them to grant Supplies in Obedience to His Majesty's Orders & the Requisition of His General, at the Opening of the Session I laid before them M^r Pratts Opinion & intreated them to pay due Regard to it, but what weight it is likely to have with the Lower House I cannot yet pronounce as they did not meet till the 22^d Inst. I am—