

to receive one from Yourself dated the 27th of Decem: last wherein You were pleased, to advise me of Your being appointed One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State & to direct me for the future to address my Letters accordingly. I had the honour also to receive inclosed in the same Letter a Copy of His Majesty's most gracious Speech to his Parliament on the 2^d of Decem: last & Copies of the Addreses which were presented to His Majesty in Answer thereto for these I beg leave to make my Acknowledgments & at the same time to assure You that I shall at all times take Care to send You the earliest Advice of every thing worthy Notice that might occur in the Province with the Govern^t of which I have the honour to be entrusted. At present Things continue in Maryland as they have been for a considerable time, three Companies of 100 Men each being supported at the Expence of the Province to garrison a Fort which is building just beyond our Westernmost Settlements & to patrol on the Frontiers, our Back Inhabitants are well satisfied & think themselves pretty secure from Danger. No Mischief has been done among them for a long time neither has any Enemy been seen on our Frontiers since the Beginning of Winter. I am now waiting the Earl of Loudoun's Arrival at this Place where he is daily expected being already returned as we are informed from Boston to N York. with &c

To the R^t: Honble. the Earl of Loudoun. Phil^a. 23 of Feby 1777.

My Ld

It gives me great Pleasure to hear & to find by the Letter which I had last Night the honour to receive, from Your Ld^{ship} that after a fatiguing Journey You are arrived in good health at N York. I shall with pleasure wait Your Ld^{ship}'s Arrival here to have an Opportunity of paying my Respects ^{in person} to Your Ld^{ship}, but as our Assembly is by my