our Ships especially if the New should be low, it is probable from the Quantity in the Country, I mention this, that You might not be unapprized, if I should be tempted to venture a little that way, You may depend if I do it will be with extreme Caution, & not without Such Grounds as will fully justify the measure. I shall have constant advises from the different parts of Maryland & Virginia of the Prospect of the Crops the whole Season, which will better enable me to judge, whether a Scheme of that kind may be carried into Execution with a reasonable Prospect of Success. For particulars of every kind I refer You to my Letters by the Snow

To Mess.rs Stevenson Randolph & Cheston

Balt.e Town Ap.l 21. 1771.

Gent.n

Since the Arrival of the Restoration I have ~~separately~~ in general advised You of every matter that Occurrd here, & particularly of the causes [redacted] the long Detention of the Snow has been entirely Owing; But as some of my Letters may have Miscarried, I will breefly Recapitulate them. When the first arrived, the Advices of the Markets for Wheat ~~were so discouraging~~ being by no means encouraging, and the great Quantitys Shipd from the Continent to Ireland, the Only Market for that Produce, under the then Appearance of a War, Making it still less, so, induced me to Determine on loading With Tob.o especially as Mess.rs Smyth & Sadler informed me that 100 or 120 hhds of Old Tob.o were still Remaining on St. Island which might be got either On Consignment or at 20/. Cur.y p.r C.t; instead of which, when the Matter was Resolved On, and the purchase Opened, 50 or 60 was the most and out of that [redacted] came to our Share; ~~this made a Difference for almost a third in the load of the Vessel, which [illegible] ready to put on board~~. Another Reason was, that I was Assured from the Quantity made, the planters would be very glad to embrace an Offer, which in all probability would exceed any Price given the ensuing Season, and exert themselves to get their crops ready for Shipping as fast as possible; in this I was not mistaken, and if it had not been for extraordinary weather, thro' the whole winter, I am Confident my most Sanguine Expectation would have been fully Answerd: From at the Middle of Decem.r to at the 15th of Feb.y I believe the Oldest man in the Country never saw so Mild Day & pleasant a Spell; I dont Recollect More than 4 Days Rain, and No Snow that laid 24 hours or

the