

Letter Bk.IV cution of the Office &c so that, said he no Person not residing here could be qualified as Secretary of the Province or be entitled to demand or receive any Fees for Services done in the Office. In answer to such his Observations I told him that I was satisfied it was neither Your Ldp's or M<sup>r</sup> Hamersley's Intention to put him on a worse Footing than he had hitherto been & that the Difference there appeared to be between M<sup>r</sup> Hamersley's Deputation to him & the Commission or Deputation heretofore transmitted by M<sup>r</sup> Calvert was certainly owing to M<sup>r</sup> Hamersley's being unacquainted with what had been formerly done & as yet a Stranger to the Laws of the Province, & that as he had hitherto acted by Virtue of a Commission issued by me (in Consequence of Directions from the late Secretary) I apprehended he might still continue to act under it until Your Ldp & M<sup>r</sup> Hamersley could be wrote to on the Subject & should be pleased to favour us with an Answer. he then told me that he should write to M<sup>r</sup> Hamersley by the first Opportunity, but gave me to understand that in the mean time he could not consider himself as authorized to do any Act whatever as Secretary, which indeed at present is of no great Consequence the Stamp Act having put a total Stop to all Law Proceedings, but if that Act should be repealed before I can be favoured with an answer to this Letter & M<sup>r</sup> Dulany will not act as Secretary I shall be under a necessity of appointing some Body or other so that Business may go on as usual. As M<sup>r</sup> Dulany in the Conversation hinted that the Sum of £200 which he had annually paid M<sup>r</sup> Calvert out of the Office was greater than he should be willing to pay his Successor he will probably apply for a Reduction, tho he was on the Death of Col<sup>o</sup> Tasker so anxious to get the Office on that Condition & prefer'd it before that of Commissary General. As the Secretary's Commissary's & the Land Office have been shut up ever since the first Day of November by reason of the Stamp Act so that no Fees accrue in either of them & the Clerks must nevertheless be paid for taking Care of the Records &c whatever those Officers are required to pay M<sup>r</sup> Hamersley for the time Affairs remain in such a Situation will be absolutely out of their Pockets, on consideration of which Circumstance they will probably apply for an Abatement & in case they do so I really think they should be favoured, but at the same time I would not be understood to make any Application on their behalf as none of them have desired me to do so. With regard to what Your Ldp is pleased to direct concerning the Annual payment of £200 to be hereafter made by myself I beg leave to assure Your Ldp that I shall be very punctual & will by this Conveyance desire Brother Philip my Attorney to pay to Captain