

sanguine in your Hopes, that the Time is not far distant, when Peace and Harmony will be restored & confidence re-established on a permanent Basis; at the same Time I observe with Satisfaction what you say of the Temper and Moderation of the Persons chosen to represent the Province of Maryland in the Continental Congress, & I am not without some Reason to believe that there may be others in that Congress of the same Disposition.

At present however the rebellious Proceedings of the People in most of the Colonies wear the appearance of an actual, Revolt, & it is his Majesty's firm Resolution in consequence of the Advices, which he has received, that the most vigorous Efforts should be made, both by Sea & Land to reduce his rebellious Subjects to Obedience, and the proper Measures are now pursuing, not only for augmenting the Army under General Gage, but also for making such Addition to our naval strength in North America, as may enable Admiral Graves, to make such a Disposition of his fleet as that, besides the Squadron necessary for the New-England Station, there may be separate Squadrons at New York, within the Bay of Delaware, in Chesapeake Bay & upon the coast of Carolina. After what has passed there can be no Doubt, what ought to be the plan of operations for the squadron upon the New-England Station, & I think it necessary to acquaint you, for your own Information, that Admiral Graves will be instructed to exert the most vigorous Efforts for suppressing the Rebellion now openly avowed & supported in that Country & to seize and obtain all ships & Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants thereof, such only excepted, as are the Property of Persons, who are Friends of Government & have shewn an Attachment to the constitution: There is still some Room to hope that the Colonies to the southward may not proceed to the same Lengths with those of New-England; it is however his Majesty's Intentions that the Commanders of the separate squadrons I have mentioned, should be instructed to prevent all Commerce between the Colonies within their respective Stations & any other Places than Great Britain, Ireland, or his Majesty's Islands in the West Indies, that they should receive on Board & give Protection to any officers of the Crown, who may be compelled by the Violence of the People to seek for such an Asylum, and to proceed, as in Case of a Town in actual Rebellion, against such of the Sea Port Towns, being accessible to the King's Ships, as shall hereafter offer any Violence to the Kings officers, or in which any Troops shall be raised, or military Works erected, other than by his Majesty's Authority, or any Attempts made to seize or plunder any public Magazine of Arms or Ammunition: