

[Sharpe to Halifax.]

Letter Bk. III

To The Earl of Hallifax. Annapolis the 5th Sept^r 1765.
My Lord

I am sorry to have such a reason for troubling Your Ldp but it is my Duty to inform you that the Proceedings of a great number of the People in this Province since the Person said to be appointed Distributor of the Stamps for Maryland arrived here gives me too much room to apprehend they will endeavour to prevent the Stamp Act having its intended Effect. Your Ldp will I presume long before this can reach you have received an Account of the late riotous Proceedings of the Populace at Boston & other Places in the Northern Colonies on Account of that new Act of Parliament, & will not therefore I suppose be surprized at receiving similar accounts from other Parts of North America nor at my telling Your Ldp that the Inhabitants of this Province incited by their Example or actuated by the same Spirit were not satisfied with expressing their Indignation against their Countryman M^r Hood the Distributor by hanging or burning him in effigie, but having in the night of the second Instant assembled to the number of three or four hundred in or near this place pulled down a House which he was repairing for the Reception of a Cargo of Goods that he had it seems imported for Sale. Being very uneasy & much terrified at the contemptuous Treatment he had since his Return from England met with from his former Acquaintance & the violent Proceedings of the Populace who really are not to be restrained on this Occasion without a Military Force M^r Hood intimated to me that if I thought his Resigning the Office would reconcile his Countrymen to him & would advise him to take that Step he would even do so, but as I could not take upon myself to give him such Advice & both he & his Relations doubted whether he could while the Ferment continued be safe in mine or any other House in the Province he has retired for a few Weeks to New York. To what Lengths People who have made such a Beginning may go to render the Act of Parliament ineffectual I cannot tell but I am very apprehensive that if the Stamp't Paper was to arrive here & be landed at this time it would not be in my power to preserve it from being burnt as there is no place of Security here wherein it might be lodged, & the Militia is composed of such as are by no means proper to be appointed a Guard over it, if therefore a Vessel should soon arrive here with the stamp't Paper I shall caution the Master against Landing it & advise him either to lye off at a Distance from the Shore or return to the Men of Wars Station in Virginia until the People shew a better Disposition or I have the Satisfaction to receive from Your Ldp some Instructions about it

I am &c.