

itants of these Colonies heard of the Stamp Acts being passed Letter Bk. IV they have expressed the greatest Dissatisfaction thereat, that popular Men & the Lawyers almost without Exception have been exclaiming against it in all Companies & the Printers who expect to be ruined by it continually publishing in their Gazettes Pieces calculated to raise the Resentment of the Colonies against the Mother Country for imposing Taxes on them; When the People were put in a Ferment by such sort of Proceedings It was no difficult Matter for Designing Men to turn the Wrath against such as were appointed to distribute the Stamps in the several Colonies & any other Persons who had appeared or were suspected to approve of the Measures which had been pursued by the Mother Country. No sooner then was it known who were appointed the Distributors than the populace countenanced as there is too much reason to think by those of a superiour Rank met together in almost every Town or place of publick Resort in New England to express their Indignation & Resentment against those Officers by carting whipping hanging or burning them in Effigie & in Boston particularly they not only pulled down the Distributor's House & insisted on his quitting the Office in order to save his Life but also destroyed or did great Damage to the Houses of the Lieut Governor & Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs because they had not exclaimed against the Act. The same sort of Spirit which incited the People of New England to such Exploits actuating also the Inhabitants of this Province, no sooner did M^r Hood (who having gone from hence last Summer to London to get some Goods for Sale had made Interest enough there to obtain the Distributors Office) return hither than his old Acquaintance who were themselves some of the Populace not only received him coolly but treated him contemptuously, & he had not been here many Days before he had the Mortification to hear of his being hang'd or burn't in Effigie in a Dozen Places & it being reported that he had hired a House in this Town & was fitting it up for the Reception of his Goods a Mob of three or four hundred People who had met near the Town in the Night of the second Inst came in & destroyed it which alarmed M^r Hood so much that he by a Letter (for he did not choose to be seen) desired to know whether in order to preserve himself from farther Insults & Injury I would advise him to resign his Office. As I did not think it became me to give him any such Advice I signified to his Uncle who brought me the Letter that I should leave that Matter entirely to his own Judgment but that if he apprehended himself in Danger & thought my House would protect him I should be ready to receive him, & to afford him as an Officer under the Crown all