

the Country to advise me of his being appointed Distributor of the Stamps for this Province. I have told you in former Letters that a great Outcry had been raised throughout all the Colonies against the Stamp Act from the time an Account of its being passed had reached them & that all the Printers had been inserting in their Weekly Papers Pieces calculated to spirit up the People who when several of the Persons appointed to distribute the Stamps arrived from England became outrageous against them & expressed their Resentment by insulting them & by hanging or burning them in Effigie almost in every Town or place of any Resort, which so much alarmed many of the Distributors that they thought fit publickly to declare that they would not act. The People here being in general actuated by the same kind of Spirit that possess't the Inhabitants of the other Colonies no sooner heard of their Countryman M<sup>r</sup> Hood's Arrival than Numbers of them assembled in many different Parts of the Province to express their Indignation against him after the manner of the Northern Colonies & so unanimous did they appear that no one who disapproved of such Proceedings dared to oppose them & scarcely to signify their Disapprobation. Such a Reception from his Countrymen in general while those who had been heretofore his particular Acquaintance treated him contemptuously or at least with the greatest Coolness made M<sup>r</sup> Hood you must think sufficiently uneasy, but he had soon greater Reason to be terrified for it being known a few Days afterwards that he had rented & was fitting up a small Wooden House in this place as a Store or Shop for the Reception of a quantity of Goods which he had imported & intended to sell by Retail a Mob consisting of three or four hundred People assembled in the night of the second Inst & almost leveled it with the Ground & notwithstanding so many were concerned no Body will accuse an Individual of being one of them, & was any one to be informed against & committed on that Account he would I am apprehensive be immediately rescued. The next Day M<sup>r</sup> Hood (who unluckily has no Friend or near Relation of any Consequence in the Province & therefore rests altogether upon me for Protection & Countenance) represented to me by a Letter (for he was now afraid to appear) what he had already suffered & dreading worse might befall him desired me not only to protect his Person by receiving him into my House, but also to see his Goods secured, & to say whether I would advise him to relinquish the Office he had obtained. As I did not think it became me to advise him to resign I told his Uncle who brought me the Letter that I must leave that matter to himself but that he might if he pleased remain a while at my house.