

Violence offered M<sup>r</sup> Mewbray should be represented home as a premeditated Insult or Indignity to His Majesty's Authority or Commission & be blended with the Behaviour of the Populace towards M<sup>r</sup> Hood. I cannot indeed say a Syllable in Excuse for the Mob's Behaviour on the Occasion & wish it was in my power to have those who were principally concerned in raising them convicted & severely punished but at the same time I think both M<sup>r</sup> Mewbray & his Passengers were to blame for leaving their Vessel to come ashore when they had been told what a Temper the People were then in, for ordering part of the Crew to come armed & keep Centry at the Tavern Door, & in getting into Disputes which could not possibly be productive of any good Consequence. It gives me a good Deal of Concern that such Disturbances should happen here but really there is no help for it, nor could I if I had been myself in Town at the time have prevented either one or the other. What Lengths the People now they have once begun may go is not easy to say, but as the Inhabitants of all the Colonies with regard to the Stamp Law seem to act as it were in Concert It will not I think be possible without a considerable Military Force in each Colony to let it have its Effect notwithstanding it seems to be so well calculated to execute itself. Should the Stamp't Paper be imported into this Province (where there is no place of Security in which it might be deposited) & no Troops be sent hither to guard it the populace will I am afraid make an Attempt to destroy it & maltreat every one that shall endeavour to restrain them, for which reason I shall advise the Person who may bring it hither to keep it on board untill the Ministry in Consequence of the Reports which have been or will be now made to them can send us farther Instructions & take proper Measures for its preservation & for the Protection of those who are appointed to distribute the Stamps within the several Provinces. Having nothing more to communicate to you at present for the inclosed Gazettes will shew you after what manner People have behaved in the Northern Colonies & the Virginians are I understand following the Example I remain with great Regard &c.

Letter Bk.IV

[Lowndes to Sharpe.]

Original.

Sir,

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to signify to your Excellency their desire that you will give your Aid and Assistance to the Distributor of Stamps within your Government in whatever may relate to his Duty in the Execution of his Office under the Act passed in the last