

Letter Bk. IV

[Sharpe to Calvert.]

Copy of 141st Letter to M^r Calvert. Dated Annapolis the 2^d
of Oct^r 1765 transmitted by Capt.

Sir

In my Letters to His Ldp & Yourself of the 10th of last Month I gave an Account of the violent Proceedings of a Number of the Inhabitants of this Place on the Arrival of the Person appointed under the late Act of Parliament to distribute the Stamp't Paper in this Province I now write to inform you that a few Days after the Date of those Letters a Petition was presented to me signed by all the Practising Lawyers of the Provincial Court (which was then sitting) & many other Gentlemen requesting me as the Town was clear of the Small Pox to convene the Assembly before the Day to which it stood prorogued & I found that it was the Universal Desire of the People that their Representatives should meet time enough to send some of their Members to New York in order to join with those who should be there from the other Colonies in a Memorial or Petition for a Repeal of the Stamp Act & as there was great Reason to apprehend that my Refusal to comply with their Request would render the Province a Scene of Confusion & Disorder the Gentlemen of the Council when I submitted the Affair to their Consideration advised me to meet the Assembly on the 23^d of Sept^r when notwithstanding the short notice given them there was almost a full House & I opened the Session with the inclosed Speech which will I hope meet with His Ldp's Approbation. You will perceive by the answer of the Lower House that after they had appointed three of their Members to go to New York & had made some Resolves to shew their Sense of the Stamp Act, in which however they stop short of some of the other Colonies, they desired me to give them a short Recess which you must be sensible I could not refuse to do, so that the Assembly at present stands prorogued to the 30th Inst. You will see by a Message I sent the two Houses before they broke up that I wanted to be advised by them what to do with the Stamp't paper destined for this Province in case it should arrive here before their next Meeting & what answers they respectively gave me, should it arrive & the Master of the Vessel apply to me according to my Expectation I shall follow the Council's Advice tho the Consequence thereof must be a total Stagnation of all Business which indeed I am persuaded would be the Case were the Papers to be landed & lodged in a Place of Security nor do I think if the Act is continued that any Person will dare to use the Stamps here for some time, or any one be found to act as Distributor of them for tho M^r Hood does not choose to resign he will not I believe for some time