

Letter Bk. IV been obliged by their Constituents to meet here even if I had not called them, & that in such Case there would have been a great Outcry raised throughout the Province against the Council & Myself which might have been productive of Disorder & ill Consequences. When the Assembly met I thought it prudent to open the Session with such a Speech as I apprehended would be well received by the People without Doors as well as by the two Houses & hope it will also meet with your Ldp's Approbation. The Members of the Upper House being as willing as the Lower that Application should be made by this Province in Conjunction with the others for a Repeal of the Stamp Act They concurred with a Proposal of the Lower House to send three of their Members to the Congress & agreed to allow them the Sum of £500 Currency for their Travelling Charges, & to defray a Proportional part of the Expence which might be occasion'd in England by the Measures to be pursued in order to obtain a Repeal of the said Act. When the Two Houses had come to an Agreement with respect to that Affair the Lower House after the Example of those in the neighbouring Colonies made several Resolves declaring what Priviledges they apprehend the Inhabitants of this Province have a Right to as British Subjects & under the Charter granted to your Ldp's Ancestor, & then desired me to let them have a short Recess, which as I understood they were determined to do no Business untill their three Members should return from New York I accordingly gave them so that the Assembly now stands prorogued to the last of this Month. Before they broke up I sent a Message to both Houses desiring them to advise me what to do with the Stamp't Paper destined for this Province in case the Master of the Vessel who had it on board should (as the Person appointed to distribute it had left the Province) apply to me for Orders about landing it, for I apprehended that if the Lower House signified their Approbation of its being landed & lodged in one of the publick Offices they would be obliged in honour to provide somehow for its preservation, but as your Ldp will see by their Answer transmitted to M^r Calvert the Lower House evaded giving me any Advice or Opinion & therefore the Gentlemen of the Upper gave me the Advice which your Ldp will see in an Address of theirs that is also transmitted to M^r Calvert, & which indeed is agreeable to my own Sentiments, for was the Paper to be landed here while the People are so warm about the Stamp Act as they are at present, I doubt not but a Mob would immediately assemble & destroy it, & therefore flatter myself that your Ldp will approve of my acting agreeable to the Advice which the Upper House have thought fit to give me. Since the Person