

Original.

[Conway to Sharpe.]

St. James's, 24th Oct^r 1765

Sir: It is with the greatest concern that His Majesty learns the disturbances which have arisen in some of the North American Colonies. If this evil should spread to the Government of Maryland, where you preside, the utmost exertion of your prudence will be necessary so as justly to temper your conduct between that caution and coolness which the delicacy of such a situation may demand, on one hand, and the vigor necessary to suppress outrage and violence on the other. It is impossible, at this distance, to assist you by any particular or positive instruction, because you will find yourself necessarily obliged to take your resolution as particular circumstances and emergencies may require.

His Majesty and the servants he honors with his confidence cannot but lament the ill-advised intemperance shewn already in some of the Provinces by taking up a conduct which can in no way contribute to the removal of any real grievances they might labor under, but may tend to obstruct and impede the exertion of His Majesty's benevolent attention to the ease and comfort as well as the welfare of all his people.

It is hoped and expected that this want of confidence in the justice and tenderness of the Mother Country, and this open resistance to its authority, can only have found place among the lower and more ignorant of the people. The better and wiser part of the colonies will know that decency and submission may prevail, not only to redress grievances, but to obtain grace and favor; while the outrage of a public violence can expect nothing but severity and chastisement. These sentiments you and all His Majesty's servants, from a sense of duty to and love of your country, will endeavor to excite and encourage. You will in a particular manner call upon them not to render their case desperate. You will in the strongest colour represent to them the dreadful consequences that must inevitably attend the forcible and violent resistance to Acts of the British Parliament, and the scene of misery and calamity to themselves, and of mutual weakness and distraction to both countries inseparable from such a conduct.

If by lenient and persuasive methods you can contribute to restore that Peace and Tranquillity to the Provinces, on which their welfare and happiness depend, you will do a most acceptable and essential service to your country. But having taken every step which the utmost prudence and lenity can dictate, in compassion to the folly and ignorance of some misguided people, you will not on the other hand fail to use your utmost power for the repelling all acts of outrage and violence, and to provide for the maintenance of peace and good order in the