

may not be found an unworthy Successor to the late Secretary; my Obligations to, and long connections with his Lordship, will effectually attach me to his Interest, whilst the little knowledge I have of the Colonys may at the same time render me no unworthy Servant of Maryland. Do you, Sr, Instruct me in my Duty, and it shall be my Endeavor to perform it; Our common Service will, I hope, prove a Mutual Intercourse of good Offices, and, whilst I have the honor of treading in the Steps and pursuing the advice of so old and approved an Officer of his Lordship, I am persuaded I shall render him the most effectual service.

I am with great regard and esteem

Hon^d Sr

Your most Obed^t and Faithfull

Humble Servant

Hugh Hamersley

Serj^{ts} Inn, London

9th Nov^r 1765.

Original.

[Gov. Mercer to Sharpe.]

Sir

The Honourable Commissioners of the Stamp Office in London, recommended some Stamps for the use of your Province to my Care, and I promised to forward Them to Annapolis; but I found on my Arrival here, I could not comply with my Engagement, as it was impossible to procure a Conveyance for Them at any Price: Indeed after being informed of the Reception of the Distributor, and the Proceedings of your People would not have been safe to trust Them on Shore at Annapolis without some Protection; and here I knew they were in less Danger.

My Duty to my Royal Master obliges me to use my utmost Endeavours for the Preservation of his Property, and finding every other Scheme I could suggest for the Security of the Stamps must be attended with a Certainty of their Destruction, I applied to the Governour and Council desiring Them, to recommend an Application which I purposed to make to Cap^t Stirling Commander of his Majesty's Ship the Rainbow to receive Them and I have the Pleasure to inform you that they are now secured on Board his Ship, where they will wait your Orders. Cap^t Stirling has with great Readiness and most obliging Condescension, done every Thing in his Power, to relieve me from the most disagreeable Commission I ever undertook, as I had the Stamps for three Provinces in Charge, and dared not let any one know where they were, though I must confess I was not a little apprehensive of an Attempt to force the Discovery from me

I have also left with Cap^t Stirling a Letter from the Stamp Office with some Instructions for M^r Hood.