

Letter Bk. IV

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

The 11th of Nov^r 1765.

My Lord

In the Letter I took the liberty to address to Your Ldp the 3^d of last Month I advised your Ldp of my having been obliged to meet the Assembly the 23^d of Sept^r of the two Houses having concurred in a proposal for sending three Members of the Lower to a Congress that was about to be held at New York & of my having afterwards at their own Request prorogued them to the 30th of last Month. During their Recess I received a Letter from Capt Hawker of His Majesty's Ship *Sardoine* then off Newcastle on Delaware informing me that he had received from on board the Ship *Charlotte* bound up to Philadelphia & had then under his Care some of the Stamp't paper that was ordered for this Province upon the Assembly's Meeting I sent a Copy of the Letter to the Lower House & desired them to give me their Advice on the Occasion which however they altogether declined doing, & I am satisfied that if I was to order the Paper round & to be landed without their Consent publickly declared the Populace would immediately destroy it. As to the Person who was appointed to receive & distribute the Stamp't Paper in this Province he continues still at New York being unwilling to resign his Office & at the same time too much terrified to return hither, & indeed if he was to return & did not immediately resign I know not what lengths the Resentment of the People might carry them. By what I can learn there is not one of the Persons appointed to distribute the Stamps in these Colonies that hath yet ventured to act & as scarcely any Business publick or private can be securely transacted without them the Courts of Law Custom Houses & all publick Offices are in a manner shut up & will probably remain so till it can be known whether the Legislature of Great Britain are determined to enforce the Law or not. That your Ldp might see what the Colonies have to offer against the Stamp Act & particularly Those who reside in Virginia & Maryland I lately transmitted in a Letter to M^r Calvert a Pamphlet which had been published here & is I think by far the best that has appeared in favour of the Colonists Pretensions. The Gentlemen who lately met at New York from the several Colonies as Deputies from the respective Assemblies having joined in & from thence transmitted a Petition to His Majesty & Memorials to the two Houses of Parliament on the Subject of the Stamp Act I doubt not but Your Ldp will have heard thereof long before this comes to hand; as there hath been so great a Change in the Ministry since the last Session of Parliament & the present Secretary of State for the South-