

Letter Bk. IV believe the populace would oppose the Landing of the Stamp't Paper unless the Assembly would signify their Consent I could not venture to order it round without their Approbation which you will see by their Address in answer to my Message they were by no means inclined to express so that I was under the necessity of telling Capt Hawker in a second Letter that really I know not what to do with the paper & must therefore let it remain in his Care till some Instructions can be sent from England concerning it. As the Act of Parliament enjoins the use of Stamp't Paper in almost every Transaction under severe Penalties & there is no such Paper to be got (& indeed if it could be had no one would dare to use it) all Proceedings in the Courts of Judicature Custom Houses and other publick Offices are Stop't, nor do I see how any Business is to be done while the people are determined to oppose the Execution of the Act & no Officer will venture to incur the Penalties imposed by it unless indeed they by violence be compelled to do so, & in that Case every thing must be thrown into Confusion. In Virginia it seems all the Justices in several of the Counties have formally resigned & declared they will no longer act, & no sooner did Col^o Mercer arrive in the Colony than the People compelled him to make a formal Resignation of his Office or at least to declare that he would never act as a Distributor without the Consent & Approbation of the Virginia Assembly. As to M^r Hood who was impowered to distribute the paper in this Province he remains still at New York & will not 'tis said ever return again to Maryland. I suppose you will before this reaches you have seen a Copy of the Petition & Memorials to His Majesty & the two Houses of Parliament which have been transmitted from N York by the Deputies from the several Assemblies, but it is not as yet known here in what Terms those Gentlemen have thought fit to apply to the Legislature of Great Britain for a Repeal of the Acts which the Inhabitants of the Colonies consider as oppressive & which have already in a great degree alienated their Affection from the Mother Country. The Assembly hath as I have already hinted been sitting since the Beginning of this Month but have not as yet finished any Business. I suppose the counting & burning all the Paper Money & examining the Accounts of the Loan Office now to be ballanced will employ the Committee of the two Houses appointed for that Purpose at least a Week longer & it will take up some time perhaps a good deal to adjust & settle the Affair of the Journal so that I expect they will not break up before the middle of next Month. As there are no Bills yet framed & nothing at present depending between the Houses of any Consequence I propose to leave them for a few Days & to be