

Letter Bk. IV not afterwards proceed to any other Business, tho I am indeed apprehensive the People here will ee'r long insist upon all the Courts & Officers doing Business as usual without regard to the Stamp Act, if the Inhabitants of the Northern Colonies set the Example which it is said they will very soon do. You will see by the inclosed Phil^a Gazettes that the Printers there go on as usual, as indeed they do in all the Northern Governments & on the Inst a paper was published here also under the Title of an Apparition of our late Gazette purely as it should seem to communicate to the Continent what I have above related of the Proceeding of our Frederick County Justices, & to give an Account of a Holliday the populace made there on that Occasion. For my own part I know not by what means a Stop is to be put either to such proceedings or Publications for no Body except the Governor & a few Officers think any Regard due to the Law, & any Opposition they could make against the Multitude would serve only to encourage them. About three Weeks ago arrived here His Majestys Sloop the Hawke Capt Browne with a Parcel of Stamp't paper destined for this Province, upon the Captains Desiring me to inform him how he might dispose of it, I recommended it to him agreeable to the Advice of the Council to keep it on board till Orders should come from England concerning it, which he will do & remain with us I expect the whole Winter unless Ld Colvil should send him Orders to the Contrary. The Person who was appointed to distribute the Stamps here is still in the Province of N York where it seems he was lately beset & compelled to swear that he will never act in the Office conferr'd on him. I am—

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

To Lord Baltimore Annapolis 24th December 1765
My Lord

Having an Opportunity of writing by a Ship bound from this place to London & just ready to sail I embrace it to give your Ldp an Account of such material Occurrences as have happened here since I did myself the honour to address a Letter to your Ldp the 11th of last Month. I then intimated to your Ldp that the Assembly was sitting & they did not break up before last Friday Evening, for a good deal of time was spent in examining & as it were finally settling the Books of the Paper Currency Office & burning the Bills of Credit which had been issued under the Acts of 1732 & 1756. The Duty of Fifteen pence a Hhd on Tobacco that hath been collected under the former Act for the purpose of sinking the Paper Money then emitted having with the Interest accrued