

Original.

[Hamersley to Sharpe.]

S^r

The Expectation of the Important Event to be produced by Fridays Debates in the Commons having induced M^r Jordan to Postpone his Departure for a few Days this Letter will Accompany my last of the 20th Instant.

And now S^r Give me leave to Congratulate you and all America upon the opening and almost certain Prospect of a total Repeal of the Stamp Act. The business was opened on the 21st by a Motion from M^r Burke, Private Secretary to the Marquess of Rockingham (first Lord of the Treasury) and seconded by M^r Grey Cooper Secretary to the Treasury for the Committee to Resolve as their last Resolution to Move the House for leave to bring in a Bill to Repeal the Law ; the opposition was taken up by a Motion from M^r Jenkinson late Secretary to M^r Grenville to Substitute the words " Explain and Amend " instead of " Repeal " and after a Debate which lasted till Two in the Morning it was carried in favor of a Repeal by 275 against 163. This great Majority seems to have put the Repeal by that House beyond a doubt & I have now reason to think it will meet with a more favourable reception from the Lords than the question has hitherto done some of the greatest of them thinking a respect due to the Acts of the Commons & tho' Tenacious of their Sovereignty being perhaps not Averse to Conciliating Measures & Inclining to do that for Expediency which they have Denied as a Right. In short I believe your Excellency may depend upon the Repeal & as I understand, the Bill is to be quickened thro' both Houses your next Letters will probably bring you the great and good news. The Resolutions enclosed in my last with those of the Commons which will now be immediately Printed in their Votes will probably be thrown into another Bill that the assertion of the rights of the British Parliament may be handed down to Posterity together with their Indulgence to the Colonies.

M^r Jordan's stay gives me the further opportunity of acknowledging the Receipt of your Letters of 11. Nov^r My Lord very much Approves yo^r conduct respecting Captⁿ Hawker as in every other Instance during the late delicate situation and hopes very soon to have it in his Power to wish you Joy of your Deliverance from so many difficulties. I have already mentioned to you the fate of the Petition from the Congress as it was not rec^d the contents have not Publicly transpired. You will find by my last that we are before hand with you in the Account of the Commissioners Proceedings having already received the Nov^r Journal from M^r Penn. It gives his Lordship very great pleasure to find the Lines