

Original.

[Secretary Conway to Sharpe.]

St James's March 31<sup>st</sup> 1766

Sir,

Herewith I have the Pleasure of transmitting to you Copies of Two Acts of Parliament just passed. The first for securing the just Dependency of the Colonies on the Mother Country; The Second for the Repeal of the Act of the last Session, granting certain Stamp Duties in America; and I expect shortly to send you a Third for the Indemnity of such Persons as have incurred the Penalties imposed by the Act just repealed, as such a Bill is now depending & has made a considerable Progress in the House of Commons

The Moderation the Forbearance, the unexampled Lenity & Tenderness of Parliament towards the Colonies, which are so signally displayed in those Acts, cannot but dispose the Province committed to your Care, to that Return of chearfull obedience to the Laws & Legislative Authority of Great Britain & to those Sentiments of respectfull Gratitude to the Mother Country, which are the natural, & I trust will be the certain Effects of so much Grace & Condescension, so remarkably manifested on the Part of His Majesty, & of the Parliament; & the future Happiness & Prosperity of the Colonies will very much depend on the Testimonies they shall now give of these Dispositions

For as a dutifull & affectionate return to such peculiar Proofs of Indulgence & Affection may now, at this great Crisis, be a means of fixing the mutual Interests & Inclinations of Great Britain & her Colonies on the most firm & solid Foundations, so it cannot but appear visible that the least Coldness or unthankfulness, the least murmuring or Dissatisfaction or any Ground whatever of former Heat, or too much prevailing Prejudice, may fatally endanger that union, & give the most severe & affecting blow to the future Interests of both Countries.

You will think it scarce possible, I imagine that the paternal Care of His Majesty for His Colonies, or the Lenity & Indulgence of the Parliament should go farther than I have mentioned; yet so full of true unanimity are the Sentiments of both, & so free from the smallest Colour of Passion or Prejudice, that they seem disposed not only to forgive, but to forget those most unjustifiable marks of an undutifull Disposition, too frequent in the late Transactions of the Colonies, & which for the Honour of those Colonies, it were to be wished had been more discountenanced, & discouraged, by those who had Knowledge to conduct themselves otherwise.

A Revision of the late American Trade Laws is going to be the immediate object of Parliament: Nor will the late Trans-