

Letter Bk. IV gave it under his hand & assured me that such Assertion was absolutely false & that Thomas had never before uttered in his Hearing a Syllable of the matter. At the time M<sup>r</sup> Jordan first mention'd the Affair he told me that in answer to a Hint which had been dropt to him Thomas had declared that he neither used Sword or Pistols but that if the Attorney General should think fit to deny the Truth of what he had said & be willing to take a Bout at Fisty Cuffs he should be ready to meet him, when therefore M<sup>r</sup> Goldsbrough intimated to me that altho he look't upon Allen Thomas as below his Notice yet that on such occasion he would call on him to give him the Lie I gave it as my opinion to him that it would be as prudent to let the Affair die since an Altercation which only would follow could prove nothing at all nor answer any other End than to make the Story circulate thro the Province to the Gratification of such as may wish him ill or be ill disposed towards your Ldps Government. From a Gentleman lately returned from St Mary's County Court I learn that since the matter has been talked of there & Thomas's Character been canvassed (for he had not long resided there) he is fallen into the Contempt he deserves so that Gentlemen there whom he before visited will not keep him Company or receive him into their Houses. Had not such a Report been spread or rather told to M<sup>r</sup> Jordan I should in Consequence of the permission your Ldp is pleased to give me have immediately introduced the Attorney General to the Council as I really think he has as much Merit as any one in the Province, tho young in the practice of the Law he is at the Top of the profession & is already possessed of a considerable Fortune which must ee'r long be greatly increased by the Death of his Father who is declining very fast but after what has passed I did not think myself at liberty however convinced of the falsity of the Accusation against him to destinguish him in that manner without your Lordships express Approbation. To the other Seat in Council vacated by the Death of Col<sup>o</sup> Hooper in whom we lately lost a very worthy Member I beg leave to recommend M<sup>r</sup> John Beale Bordley of whom I made favourable Mention to your Ldp in a former Letter & if your Ldp pleases I should be glad to have an Instruction for filling up the Vacancies in the Council before the End of the Summer. I have I am afraid already tired your Ldp's patience but must tresspass a little longer to inform you that about a week ago two Clergymen from New York & the Jersies bringing with them introductory Letters from General Gage & several other Gentlemen paid me a Visit to inform me that they were desired by a Convention of Church of England Ministers in the Northern Colonies to lay before Me a Scheme for the Introduction of