

Lib. J. R. His Excellency is pleased to lay before this Board the fol-
& U. S. lowing Letter with the Two Acts of Parliament therein
referred to.

S^t James's 31st March 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 County. 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Shortly to send you a Third for the Indemnity of such Persons as have incurred the Penalties imposed by the Act just Repealed, as such a Bill is now depending and has made a Considerable Progress in the House of Commons.

The Moderation, the Forbearance, the unexampled Lenity and 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 and Legislative Authority of Great Britain, and to those Sentiments of respectful Gratitude to the Mother Country, which are the natural and I trust will be the certain Effects of so much Grace and Condescension, so remarkably manifested on the part of his Majesty, and of the Parliament, and the future happiness and Prosperity of the Colonies will very much depend on the Testimonies they shall now give of these Dispositions.

For as a dutiful and affectionate return to such peculiar Proofs of Indulgence and Affection may now at this great Crisis be a means of fixing the mutual Interests and Inclinations of Great Britain and her Colonies on the most firm and Solid Foundations, so it cannot but appear visible that the least Coldness or Unthankfulness, the least Murmuring or Dissatisfaction on any Ground whatsoever of former Heat, or too much prevailing prejudice, may fatally endanger that Union, and give the most severe and 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 and Indulgence of the Parliament should go farther than I have mentioned; yet so full of true Unanimity are the Sentiments of both, and 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, and which for the Honour of those Colonies, it were to be wished had been more discountenaced, and discouraged, by those who had knowledge to conduct themselves otherwise.