

Lib. C. B. Opposition to and Denial of the authority of Parliament, and
No. 20 to Subvert the true Principles of the Constitution; it is His Majesty's Pleasure that you should immediately upon the Receipt hereof exert your utmost influence to defeat this flagitious Attempt to disturb the Public Peace, by prevailing on the Assembly of your Province to take no Notice of it, which will be treating it with the Contempt it deserves. The repeated Proofs which have been given by the Assembly of Maryland, of their Reverence and Respect for the Laws, and of their faithful Attachment to the Constitution, leave little Room in his Majesty's Breast to doubt of their shewing a proper Resentment of this unjustifiable Attempt to revive those Distractions, which have operated so fatally to the Prejudice of this Kingdom and the Colonies, and accordingly his Majesty has the fullest Confidence in their Affections; but if notwithstanding these Expectations, and your most earnest Endeavours, there should appear in the Assembly of your Province a Disposition to receive or give any Countenance to this Seditious Paper, it will be your Duty to prevent any proceeding upon it by an immediate Prorogation or Dissolution. I am Sir with great Truth and Regard, Your most Obedient
humble Servant
Hillsborough.

p. 22 Copy. Province of Massachusetts Bay Feb^{ry} 11th 1768.
Sir.

The House of Representatives of this Province have taken into their serious Consideration the great Difficulties that must accrue to themselves and their Constituents by the Operation of the several Acts of Parliament imposing Duties and Taxes on the American Colonies.

As it is a Subject in which every Colony is deeply interested, they have no reason to doubt but your Assembly is duly impressed with its Importance, and that such constitutional Measures will be taken by them as are proper. It seems to be necessary that all possible care should be taken that the Representations of the several Assemblies, upon so delicate a Point, should harmonize with each other. The House therefore hope that this Letter will be candidly considered in no other light than as expressing a Disposition freely to communicate their Mind to a Sister Colony, upon a common Concern, in the same Manner as they would be glad to receive the Sentiments of your or any other House of Assembly on the Continent. This House have humbly represented to the Ministry their own Sentiments; That His Majesty's High Court of Parliament is the supreme Legislative Power over the whole Empire; That