1774 Oct. 20 Samuel Galloway incoming letters MS 1994

his own hands and she was a burning when I left town.

I think Sir I went to Annapolis yesterday to see my Liberty destroyed which was done when fire was put to the brig. Everybody allows that Mr. Steuart was to blame in entering the Tea, he was advised by many not to do it and made two attempts and was persuaded from it before he did do it. But after making such conceptions as he did do (which I shall send you) and agreeing to pay for half of the Tea, it was monstrous to destroy his Vessel which is worth 900 pounds Currency None but madmen could do such a thing. They have not only punished the Guilty but the Innocent must also suffer. Capt. McGachen is as 1/3 Owner of the Vessel. He did not enter her nore was he privy to any part of the transaction. If this is Liberty, If this is Justice, they certainly must have found a new code of Laws on Elk Ridge, but they must be very different from any others ever was pened by man or ever appeared heretofore on the face of this Earth. Whilst they were preparing to go on board, the Vessel, sober sought of people begin to think what a Scandal it would be to Suffer an Action to be put into execution against the sense of the Majority of the people. Stephen in particular began to declare his Sentiments very freely. Mr. C. Wallace, Mr. S. Hopkins, Mr. Jos. Cowman, my Uncle and in short every person present who had any sense of honour or Justice cryed out Shame and determined immediately to prevent it, but as they were going down to the water side with that intent they met poor Mr. Dick who beg and entreated for God sake not to meddle in the matter, but let her be burnt, he said that if they were prevented, they would certainly destroy Mr. Steuart's house and prejudice him more then the Value of the Brig, on this the Gentlemen desisted from proceeding any farther. But it is my Sentiments that the Gentlemen ought to have proceeded, for if they were able to prevent the burning the Vessel, they certainly might have prevented any insult being offer to Mr. Steuart or prejudice done his house. Some of the Gentlemen from Elk Ridge and Baltimore when they came to Town was very much exasperated against Mr. Steuart. They talk of taring and feathering him. Mr. Charl Thomas Williams the Shipper of the Tea would have undergone that discipline if they had him. Mr. John MLun and others have made oath they heard him say in London, they the association in a America was a mere bugbear and that he would import what goods he thought proper to that Country. He is now on his papage to Philadelphia from London. I would not advise him to come to Annapolis. I shall send you the Newspaper and Mr. Steuarts handlier. I am apt to believe the Committee will meet with some difficulty in putting this Affair in print as they cannot say it was with the Consent of the Major part of the people that the Vessel was burned. It is not proper for me to make remarks on a Committee chosen by the people of Ann Arundel Cy., but for the future I would not give a Copper for all that their committee can say or do.

Thus Sir I have related you the whole and in as full manner as is in my power. This Most infamous and rascally affair which makes all men of property reflect with horrer on their present Situation to have their lives and propertys at the disposal & mercy of a mob is Shocking indeed! The whole Province are Crying out against the proceedings and the Ringleaders begin to be ashamed of it themselves. I heard one of them who calls himself a Gentleman, an hour after the affair was over say that it was not his Sentiments to burn to the Vessel. Mr. Steuart had agreed to pay for half of the Tea before this