By his Excellency HORATIO SHARPE, *Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of* MARYLAND.

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

A BRIEF.

IT having been represented to me, by his Majesty's Governor of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*, That on the 20th of *March* last, a Fire broke out in the Town of *Boston*, in such Manner as to elude all Means for suppressing the same, until it had (according to the best Information that could be obtained) destroyed 174 Dwelling-Houses, and as many Warehouses, Shops, and other Buildings, which, with the Furniture and other Goods therein, amount, at a moderate Computation, to 100,000 *l.* Sterling; and that, by this unhappy Accident, 220 Families were turned out of Doors, the greatest Part of whom, being by this Misfortune rendered incapable of subsisting themselves, were become proper Objects of Charity.

And that although he had sent Briefs throughout that Province to procure Relief for the unhappy Sufferers, the Calamity is so great and extensive, that the Means of Relief from amongst themselves, and the Contributions of their own Inhabitants, must be greatly inadequate to the Loss.

His Excellency therefore desires me to recommend it to the People of this Province, to assist in Relieving their distressed Fellow-Subjects, and that I would cause what may be collected on this Occasion, to be remitted to the Select-men and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of *Boston*, with whom will be lodged the Collections made in that Government, to be distributed amongst the Sufferers, as they, in their Discretion, shall judge proper.

I do therefore hereby most earnestly recommend to the Benevolence and Charity of the good People of this Province, the calamitous and ruined Condition of those unhappy Sufferers; not doubting, but as all are subject to the like Calamities, and under like Misfortunes would hope and expect the Assistance of their Fellow-Subjects and Fellow-Christians, that every Person amongst us will contribute on this Occasion, towards alleviating the Miseries of the unhappy Sufferers, in Proportion to the Means wherewith GOD hath severally blessed us.

And I do require the several Rectors of Parishes, and other Ministers of the Gospel within this Province, to read, or cause to be read, this BRIEF, to their respective Congregations, on the first, second, and third Sundays after they shall receive the same; that they indorse thereon, such Collections as shall be by them severally made; and that this Brief, with the Indorsement thereon, they forthwith transmit to me; and the Sums collected, they are forthwith to pay to the Sheriff of each County, to be immediately transmitted to the Commissioners of the Paper Currency Office, in the City of *Annapolis*, that the same may be speedily remitted to the Select-men and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of *Boston*, agreeable to the laudable and charitable Design of the Contributors.

GIVEN at the City of ANNAPOLIS, *the Sixth Day of* MAY, *in the Tenth Year of his Lordship's Dominion, and in the Year of our Lord CHRIST*, 1760.

Hor: Sharpe