

in America & that he might be shortly expected with some Letter Bk. III  
more British Regiments All His Majesty's American Subjects earnestly pray for prosperous Gales for them & I most heartily wish His Ldp might arrive time enough to make the Campaign. The Regiments already here are I beleive near compleat & I learn that they have begun their March towards Oswego on Ontario Lake where they are to be employed this Summer, while a Body of 8000 or 9000 Provincial Troops that are raising in the Eastern Colonies make an Attempt on Crown Point, Colonel Winsloe who was a Captain on the Carthage Expedition & commanded the N England Troops last year in Nova Scotia is to have the Chief Command of all the Provincials, & Sr Will<sup>m</sup> Johnson is only to lead or concern himself with the Indians who are to act in Conjunction with the Regiments on the Lake. We have been in some pain for Oswego this winter on account of some preparations that were said to be making by the French at Frontenac to attack it before the Garrison could be reinforced or receive Supplies of Provisions, which it seems they were much in want of, but I hope that the Danger is eer this over. The Virginians have expended very large Sums of Money without being able to prevent the Incur-sions & Barbarities of the Indians or even to raise 500 Men for the Defence of their Frontiers; & the Pensilvanians have spent great part of £60,000 this Winter to as little purpose & as much more they may dispose of without doing the least Service unless they would raise Men enough to act offensively. About two Months ago General Shirley sent me a Commission to take the Command of all the Forces that I could persuade these Southern Colonies to raise for carrying on an Expedition or making a Diversion to the Westward. As I found the several Assemblies did not so readily come into the proposal as the General seemed to have expected, & as His Excellency had thought proper to order from Virginia all the Field Pieces &c that were there & all indeed that were to be found in these Southern Colonies, I returned him thanks for his kind Intention in sending me such a Commission, but intimated to him that as the Colonies would do nothing & he had not impow-ered me to draw for a Shilling the Reduction of Fort Du Quesne would be impracticable without either Men Artillery Arms Ammunition or Provisions, & nothing farther remains for me to do than to urge our Assembly to grant a Sum of Money for the Defence of their own Frontiers, tho that as has been already hinted can never be effectually done while the French remain Masters of the Ohio & consequently of all the Indians to the Westward of these Provinces. We learn from some of our back Inhabitants who were captivated by the Indians but have lately made their Escape that the French at