

shortly to be held, and we are firmly persuaded the Governor c. s. c. will not stir from his Station or do any Thing to disturb the Peace of the Province between this Time and the Meeting of that Body. We consider the Congress as having the supreme Authority over the Continent and look up to them with Reverence and Esteem, but that they cannot interfere with uncontrollable Power in the internal Polity of this or any other Province, and herein we are supported by the Resolves of the late Convention—if unhappily however they do not approve our Conduct we are determined to call a Convention with all convenient Speed and lay our whole Transactions before them, that they may judge of the Propriety of what we have done.

We omitted informing you before that the Governor assured us on his Honour, that he had received no other Letters from the Ministry at Home but those he delivered to us and of which we have heretofore sent you Copies: he has also given us leave to search all his Papers if we think proper. We are not convinced that he has carried on any Correspondence with the Ministry unfriendly to America; if on Suspicion only we seize the Head of the Civil Government all Commissions of Magistrates, Sheriffs and other Offices flowing from him must be at an end, and the Council of Safety have no Power to fill the Vacancy—the convention have this Power inherent in them as Representatives of the People, they have not communicated it to us, that we can find—on seizing the Governor therefore the Convention ought to be immediately called together to take the State & Condition of the Province into their Consideration, and make Provision for the civil department. If you recommend calling it earlier than the 27<sup>th</sup> we shall pay due attention to the Day you fix on—we have done every Thing in our power to promote the Interest and Peace of the Province, and are firmly persuaded that if this Storm blows over, that we shall continue to enjoy quiet some Time longer, if not the whole Campaign; and perhaps before another, all will be settled happily.

We write to the President by this Opportunity, and we think ourselves fortunate in having W. P. with us and approving of all we have done, and we doubt not you would have acted in Substance as we have done, had you been here on the Spot. Our Council consisting of D. J. C. C. J. H. B. R. and J. L. were unanimous in their Opinion, and if we are suffered to go on our own Way all will end as it should do—if on the other hand the Governor is treated with Ignominy and Rigour and laid under Arrest and guarded &c we cannot tell what will be the Consequence—this we are certain of our Government will be shaken to its very Foundations, and in what Form it would be settled again we know not. A. Ross was taken by our