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June 20, 1754  
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THE  
**MARYLAND GAZETTE**  
Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic

THURSDAY, September 5, 1754

The SPEECH of the Honourable JAMES DE LANCREY, Esq; his Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of New-York, and Territories depending thereon in America.

To the Council and General Assembly of the said Province.

**T**HIS French Force, in Conjunction with a Number of Indians, having lately attacked and defeated the British Troops under the Command of Colonel Washington, on this Side of the Ohio, within the undoubted Limits of his Majesty's Dominions, and, as I am informed built a Fort on the Forks of Monongahela; I was obliged to call you together at this Time.

It is evident, and needs no Arguments to prove, how conducive it must be to his Majesty's Service, and the general Welfare of all the Colonies, that we should be aiding and assisting to each other in Case of any Invasion. In this Situation, it is incumbent on all the Provinces to give the Kingians the Aid they stand in Need of. It behoves us more particularly to exert ourselves, for as we have a large and extended Frontier exposed to the French and their Indians, we cannot with any Decency, should this Province be attacked, call upon the other Governments on the Continent, or with Reason expect Assistance from them, unless we now cheerfully throw in our Contributions to enable the Kingians to repel the French, and drive them out of the Limits of his Majesty's Dominions: This is a Point that deserves your most serious Attention.

There is another which requires it no less; and that is the defenceless State of the Province: View the Fortifications of this City, and let your own Eyes inform you, what Repairs are necessary, and what other Works wanting to strengthen and defend it. Consider how near the most populous and best Part of Canada is to Albany; how weak and unprepared for a Defence that City is; that we have not any Place of Strength above it on Hudson's River, to retard an Enemy, one Moment so that they might be at our Doors, to give us the first Notice of our Danger. The Consequences that must attend the Loss of Albany, is a Subject more proper for your own Reflection, than for me to enlarge upon. A Place of so great Importance, ought to be well provided for its Defence in all Events; A strong Fort upon Hudson's River, must be a great Security to that City; as Intelligence might be sent from thence, of the Approach of an Enemy, and the Place thus enabled to hold out till a sufficient Force could be brought to its Relief, which might be soon done; and a Fort on that Quarter, must also, in Time of War, be a great Check to the Enemy's Incursions towards this City, and other Parts of the Country.

In Case of a War, we may expect great Assistance from the Six Nations of Indians: Let them in a very good Disposition at the late Treaty; but unless we put ourselves in a proper Posture of Defence, they will be unwilling to expose themselves to the Retaliant of the Enemy. If we will protect them, they will be ready to fight for us. The building a Fort, and making a Settlement in the Seneca Country, is a Matter of great Consequence; for besides the Advantages we might draw from it, the French will be prevented from making this Step, which they would have done long ago, could they have prevailed in the Treaty to consent to it. With this View, a Tract of Land of a good Soil, and fit for Settlement, was purchased by Lieutenant Governor Clarke, from the Senecas, the most numerous of the Six Indian Nations. And though a Fort was not then built, and even now, as it is a general Consent, ought to be done in a general Reference, yet in the Situation of Affairs is become more dangerous than at that Time, it is necessary

to erect a Fort there, even at our own Charge; to secure a Footing at that Place; to attach the Nation to the British Interest, to hinder their falling into the Hands of the French, and to unite them more firmly with the other Indian Nations, in a Dependence on this Government.

It has been usual to send a Smith and some other Persons, to reside in the Seneca Country, to secure that Nation in their Fidelity to us. And the Onondages have desired me to order a Smith to be sent and remain among them for a Year. Services of this Nature have ever been attended with a good Effect.

In my late Conferences with the Six Nations at Albany, they complained of the pernicious Effects arising from the Use of Rum among them, and desired it might not be sold in their Cattle or Countries: The Mohawks also requested, that the People who are settled there, might not be suffered to sell this Liqueur to them; And as the Law which restrains the Sale of Rum to the Indians has proved ineffectual, I must recommend to you, to make such further Provision, as will fully answer that End.

It may be proper to revise the Militia Act, to make it more effectual for the Purposes intended; and to insert a Clause, to form those who are exempted by Law, yet able to bear Arms, into Companies, to appear once a Year, and as often as the public Service shall require it, for the Defence of the Province; and to provide a Quantity of Arms and Accoutrements, to be lodged in the Cities of New York and Albany, to be ready upon any Emergency.

The present Exigency calls aloud upon you for Supplies, to assist our Fellow Subjects of Virginia: The Case is much altered since I first laid before you the Encroachments of the French: They had then built Forts only on the Lake Erie, and at the Head of River; they have now descended this River to the Ohio, and thence to the Monongahela; and have defeated his Majesty's Troops on this Side of the Ohio; so that by these Steps it is evident, the Case has now happened, in which you engaged, by your Resolution of the 13th of November last, to make Provision for assisting any of the neighbouring Colonies to repel Force by Force; and I am persuaded, you will acquit yourselves, as becomes you, by cheerfully giving an ample Supply for this Service; and that you will, at the same Time, make a suitable Provision for the other Services which the Defence and Safety of the Province demand of you.

The Things I have recommended to you, highly concern his Majesty's Honour, and the Interest and Safety of the Province. We may learn from the Relations published by the French, that they have long had a Design upon this Province: Plans have been formed to attack Albany and this City at the same Time; the former by a Land Force from Canada, and New York by a Naval Armament. They would gladly be Masters of a Country that must soon put it in their Power to reduce the Six Nations, and their numerous Allies, to an entire Dependence on them. By preventing this, you will go a great Length in defeating their Views, to subvert the whole Continent to the French Yoke. Let me therefore earnestly exhort you, to provide in Time for your Security; that by effectually fortifying the Province, the future Schemes of Attempts on your Frontiers, may be frustrated, and rendered abortive.

When I was in Albany, I proposed to the Commissioners of the several Governments, that the building Forts in proper Places, to cover the Northern Frontiers of this, and some of the neighbouring Provinces, and Forts in the Indian Countries, but without any Effect; they seemed to fully persuade of the Backwardness of the several As-

semblies, to come into joint and vigorous Measures, that they were unwilling, in times upon the Consideration of these Matters, and formed a Plan for general Union of all the Colonies, to be enforced by Act of Parliament, which, together with a Representation they prepared of the State of the Colonies, I shall order to be laid before you.

I need not recommend Unanimity to you; the Matters laid before you are of such Importance, that they will naturally lead you to unite your utmost Endeavours to bring them to a happy Conclusion. It will give me the highest Satisfaction, while I have the Honour of the Administration, something effectual be done to assist our Neighbour, and to strengthen and secure ourselves. You will ever find me ready to give my Assent to any Bill for his Majesty's Service, and the good of this Country.

JAMES DE LANCREY  
City of New York,  
20th August, 1754.

To the Honourable JAMES DE LANCREY, Esq; his Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over the Province of New York, and the Territories depending thereon in America.  
The humble ADDRESS of the Council of the Province of NEW YORK.

May it please your Honour,  
WE Return you our most humble Thanks for your Speech.

We are truly sensible of the Importance of those Matters you have been pleased to lay before us. When the Dignity of the Crown is insulted, and the Welfare of Great Britain, attacked, and the Property of our Fellow Subjects invaded; an Englishman, can We, who are under so many Ties of Duty and Gratitude; We, who so often have made Profession of Duty and Loyalty to the best of King; hesitate one Moment to exert with Indignation, our utmost Efforts of Resistance? Surely not! We therefore beg Leave to assure your Honour, that we will cheerfully concur in every proper Measure that can in any Ways conduce to the defeating those perfidious Schemes, concerted by a Nation void of Sincerity, and regardless of all Faith and Treaties.

Permit us, Sir, to add, that there is nothing in our Power shall be wanting, whereto we can; by any Means, contribute to the Honour of your Administration, and the good of the Province.  
By Order of the Council,  
ARCHIBALD KENNEDY, Speaker.

City of New York,  
22d of August, 1754.

The GOVERNOR'S Answer.  
Gentlemen,  
I Return you Thanks for your Address.

The Loyalty you express to his Majesty, the best of Kings, and your Zeal to defeat the Schemes of the French, are very agreeable to me.

I am obliged to you for the Assurance, that Nothing shall be wanting in your Power, that can contribute to the Honour of my Administration.

JAMES DE LANCREY.  
Fort George, New York,  
22d of August, 1754.

To the Honourable JAMES DE LANCREY, Esq; his Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over the Colony of New York, and Territories thereon depending in America.

The humble ADDRESS of the General Assembly of the said Colony.

May it please your Honour,  
WE his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the General Assembly for the Colony of New York, return your Honour our Thanks for your Speech at the Opening of this Session.

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