

from them, & till I should see ~~them~~ ~~it~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~way~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Plan~~ ~~that~~ ~~was~~ ~~concerted~~ ~~at~~ ~~York~~, which they have now had under Consideration  
they met the 23 of July I recommended it to them to contribute to the ~~benefit~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Province~~  
the Plan that was concerted at York, which they have now had under Consideration  
6 Weeks without being able to make or perfect a Bill which the Committee was oblig'd  
to prepare upon their passing a Vote for Accession. It will make the Appearance  
I am told next week but by what I can find in such a Report as will lay the  
Upper House or myself under a Necessity of refusing it. Should this be the Fate of the  
Virg: Assembly break up as that of Pennsylvania has done without granting any Supplies  
as I have some reason to fear it will, I leave you to judge whether I have not a very  
fair Prospect of being able to reduce Fort Duquesne this Summer as I am directed  
by General Shirley to do with the Forces that these Colonies shall raise for that purpose.  
I enclose you a Copy of the Generals Letter which I received with the Commission  
of Instructions & also my Answer thereto since the writing of which my Hopes have  
daily diminished & I begin to think that I ought not to be sorry at the Excellency's  
having ordered all the Field Pieces that were in these Parts round from Virg. to  
York; may he use them with greater Success than I could hope to do here. Tho'  
I dare not be very sanguine even in such hopes so much is the Face of Affairs in America  
altered within this twelve Month.

To General Shirley the 10 of April 1756.

The inclosed Letter I am desired to forward to your Excellency from Col Washington  
& to request you to commissionate & appoint him Second in Command in case these  
Colonies shall raise a sufficient Number of Troops for carrying on an Expedition or  
making a Diversion to the Westward this Summer; as Mr Washington is much esteem'd  
in Virginia & really seems a Gentleman of merit I should be exceedingly glad to learn  
that your Excellency is not averse to favouring his Application & Request. Tho' I am  
of this Province is still sitting but no Supply Bill is yet pass'd & I hear that the Virg:  
Gentlemen have not yet come to any Resolution to grant such Supplies as you have recom-  
mended to them & required. If I shall have any Prospect of being enabled to do any  
thing this Summer in pursuance of the Commission with which you have been pleas'd  
to honour me I must beg the favour of your Excellency to give me an Order for  
the Majestys Stores of any kind that I can find or discover in Virg. or this Province  
but the Persons in whose Custody they were last Year may not think my Request  
of Order alone for them a sufficient Indemnification & I am