

to have restrained Part of those Troops within certain Bounds, to serve particular Purposes, although they never thought of carrying that Point so far as to restrain them within their own Province, and the Moment that Intention appeared, the Ministry immediately interposed, and no such Measures have been attempted since.

Although the Prerogative is undisputed every where, I have thought it necessary to mention these few Instances in their Neighbourhood, to shew them the Singularity both of their Opinion and Proceedings; the Consequence of which I foresaw, and mentioned in a former Letter, and warned them of in the Letter I had the Honour to write you of the Effects such a Measure would have, not only to throw open the Frontiers of their own Province, but to open a Door to the Enemy in the very Heart of his Majesty's Dominions in North-America: As this is the fair State of the Affair, I cannot Doubt that those Gentlemen, on considering coolly on the Affair, will, from their Care for the Preservation of the Lives and Properties of their Fellow-Subjects, from their Zeal for the Common Cause of all North-America, and their Duty to the King, propose such an Act as is not only agreeable to the Instructions, but agreeable to our happy Constitution of Government in the British Dominions, without attempting to make Alterations in it, at a Time when the Enemy are taking every Advantage that can be drawn from any little Fars that may happen in any of the Provinces of his Majesty's extensive Dominions on this Continent, which are therefore Things every Man, who is a real Lover of his Country, will to the utmost avoid.

As to the Dispute of what Province Fort Cumberland belongs to, 'tis a Thing I never heard disputed, but by all Men I have met with, was deemed to be in Maryland; but be that as it will, 'tis of no Consequence, nor has it any Thing to do in this Affair, nor had I the least Intention of loading Maryland, or easing any other Province, by sending the Provincial Troops of Maryland to it; and in my Orders at that Time, I shewed the greatest Attention to Maryland, in employing the Whole of the Troops raised by them in covering their Frontiers, and securing the Inlets into their Country, when I actually sent 200 of the Provincials of Virginia by Sea, at the Expence of that Province, to South-Carolina, and had 200 more of the Virginia Provincial Troops ready to be carried there, if that Service had not been provided for by the Arrival of a Regiment of 1000 Men from Europe.

I have shewed you above, that the King has the undisputed Right, that he has by his Commission put the Execution of it into my Hands, that Maryland alone have disputed the King's Right of Commanding his Subjects in Arms, although his Majesty's Servant in the Execution of that Trust, has had a particular Regard to the Ease and Security of the Province of Maryland. When I know Things really to stand on this Footing and can have no Doubt that the Gentlemen that compose the Assembly of Maryland, mean, not only to protect the Province of Maryland, but to give every Aid to the Common Cause in their Power, I can have no Doubt that on a cool Reflection of the general Situation of the Affairs of this Country, the Duty they owe to the King and the Community (whatever Representations may have led them into the present Bill) they will immediately set those Things on a true Constitutional Footing, and enter heartily into the Common Cause, for the Security of Maryland, and to give their utmost Assistance against the common Enemy. I intended when I writ from Albany to have come directly to Annapolis, but some unexpected Business put it out of my Power at that Time, and now I cannot fix the Time I shall be with you.

Hoping from your wise Management, and the People coming to see their own true Interest, that I shall very soon have better Accounts from you: I am, with sincere Regard, SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,
LOUDOUN.

His Excellency Governor SHARPE.

Ordered, That the Earl of Loudoun's Letter do lie on the Table.

Mr. John Reeder, a Delegate Elected at the last General Election for Saint Mary's County, appeared in the House:

Ordered, That Mr. Plater and Mr. Sothoron do go with him to the Upper House, to see him Qualified. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker, They saw him Qualified in the usual Manner.

The Gentleman took his Seat in the House.

Mr. Key, on his Motion, hath Leave to be absent until Saturday Morning.

Resolved, That the Rules ordered to be observed by the several Members of this House last Session, be observed as such during this Session.

Resolved, That the Hours of Sitting this Session, for the Dispatch of Public Business, be from Nine of the Clock in the Morning until One, and from Two of the Clock Afternoon until Five.

Ordered, That Mr. Goldsborough do acquaint the Reverend Mr. Clement Brooke, That he is requested to Read Divine Service at Three Quarters of an Hour past Eight of the Clock in the Morning, and at Five of the Clock in the Afternoon, during this Session.

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