

A sufficient Number of Delegates to compose a Lower House of Assembly, being convened at the Stadt-House, Ordered, That Mr. John Goldsborough and Mr. Carroll do acquaint his Excellency the Governor therewith.

They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker, That they delivered the Message.

Col. Hammond, and Philip Thomas, Esq; from the Upper House, acquaint Mr. Speaker, That the Governor requires the Attendance of the Lower House in the Upper House.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and (with the Rest of the Members of the Lower House) attended his Excellency in the Upper House; where he made the following SPEECH, viz.

GENTLEMEN of the Upper and Lower Houses of ASSEMBLY,

SINCE I met you the Twenty-third of last Month, I have received a Letter from General Forbes, wherein he is pleased to signify to me what Measures he thinks ought to be taken for the Security of This, and the Two neighbouring Colonies, during the approaching Winter, and how far he expects the Inhabitants of this Province in particular, will contribute towards carrying them into Execution: That you may be the better able to judge of the Expediency of those Matters, I shall lay the General's Letter before you, not doubting but your Determination and Proceedings thereupon, will be agreeable to his Excellency's Wishes.

A Copy of which the Governor delivered to Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker (with the Rest of the Members) Returned to the Lower House, and Reassumed the Chair. Ordered, That his Excellency's Speech be Read; which accordingly was; and Ordered to lie on the Table.

His Excellency communicated to Mr. Speaker, the following Letter, viz.

Ray's-Town Camp, October 22d, 1758.

S I R,

THE heavy Rains that have fallen of late, had rendered the Road almost impassable for Carriages: These few Days fast of dry Weather, has given Things a more favourable Aspect, and every Thing is in Motion, the last Division being to march from hence To-morrow.

My State of Health still continues precarious, but not so bad as to occasion any Stop to our Operations, which must now come to a speedy Conclusion, on Account of the advanced Season of the Year.

Whatever the Fate of the Army may be, it is impossible to foresee; but whether we are successful or not, it is necessary to leave as large and extensive a Barrier as possible, to cover the Frontiers of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The Number of the King's Troops that I have under my Command, does not exceed Twelve Hundred Men, the greatest Part of which I must send to the inhabited Part of the Country, to Recruit and fit themselves out for the ensuing Campaign; for were I to leave the Whole during the Winter in the uninhabited Parts of the Country, these Corps would not be in a Condition to march on Service early in the Spring.

I shall lay before you the Posts that are necessary to be kept up, which are now in Possession of us, leaving it to you, and the Assembly of your Province, to judge of their Importance to them, and to know how far they will contribute in Men and Expences, in supporting the necessary Garrisons, and making the Soldier's Life comfortable; without the latter, no real Service can be expected from them.

Whatever the Fate of this Army may be, the Posts of Loyalhanning, Cumberland, Ray's-Town, Juniata, Littleton, Loudoun, Frederick, Shippensburg, and Carlisle, ought to be Garrisoned, besides Winchester, the Forts on the South Branch of Patowmack, and the Frontiers of Augusta. I have wrote to the Governors of the Two other Provinces to know how far their Assemblies will go in keeping up these Frontier Garrisons. I hope your new Assembly will not only chearfully contribute to the Expence of the Garrisons, but grant Money to pay off the large Arrears which is due to their Troops, who must have starved with Cold if I had not advanced Money for providing them with Necessaries. I expect by this Time they have granted a Sum adequate to the Sum I advanced out of the King's Money (without any Orders) for keeping up the Troops of the Province for it's Security. It will easily occur to you the Things that will be necessary for making the Soldier's Life comfortable in this severe Climate during the Winter: The most necessary are a second Blanket in lieu of a Bed, Flannel Jacket, a new Pair of Breeches, Two Pair of Stockings, and a Pair of Shoes.

I should be glad to know how far your Assembly will go in putting it in my Power to maintain the Ground that is gained: If they do nothing for the Safety of the Province, I am certain it is not in my Power to defend them during the Winter, with the Strength that I shall have left, and which I must expect will diminish daily.

To cover your Frontiers will, in my Opinion, require Five Hundred Men, which is a small Proportion, in Comparison to the other Provinces.