

“ *Gentlemen*, I know not how great your Surprize may be at my recommending it to the Agents to send a fresh Supply of Provisions to the Troops at Fort *Cumberland*; but I assure you mine would have been very great if they had urged any Thing but the Want of Money in Excuse for not having immediately complied with my Request. The Agents Accounts will, I suppose, shew you, that they have hitherto furnished those Troops with Provisions; and they will, I presume, if called upon, inform you that they have been well advised the Law made it their Duty to supply them so long as any of the Money, which was appropriated by the Act passed last Session, remained unexpended. I am sorry you should question the Earl of *Loudoun's* Authority to place in Fort *Cumberland* any of the Men that were raised here, in Consequence of his Requisition: I am satisfied that this Lordship was by his Majesty's Commission, as well as by our Act of Assembly, impowered to do so; and however it may become you, I do not think it was my Duty to declare, that they should not be employed in such a Manner as the Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's Forces in *America* though most conducive to his Majesty's Service. As it is notorious that while Numbers of People have been cut off in the Two Neighbouring Provinces, we have only lost *Two or Three* Persons at most, exclusive of Soldiers and their Attendants, and that our People owe their Preservation in great Measure to the Disposition that the Earl of *Loudoun* was pleased to make of *our* Forces, I am surprized at your saying that for Want of *their* Service, the Frontier Inhabitants have been exposed to the IncurSIONS of their cruel and savage Enemies: But if you complain so grievously of the Earl of *Loudoun's* having ordered a Part of our Troops to Garrison a Fort within the Province, What Answer might his Lordship have expected, if, when he gave Orders for some of the Troops that were raised in *North-Carolina, Virginia, and Pennsylvania*, to embark for *South-Carolina*, he had required us likewise to send a Company or Two thither? As I persuade myself, *Gentlemen*, that you would not choose to distinguish yourselves by obstructing the Measures, that the General whom his Majesty has intrusted with the Command of all his Forces in *America* thinks it for his Majesty's Service to pursue. I hope you will not oblige the Troops that are now at Fort *Cumberland*, to abandon it, with all it's Artillery and Stores, to his Majesty's Enemies: And as you alone will be answerable for the Consequences. I once more recommend it to you to make immediate Provision for the Support of that Garrison, as well as for the Support of the Troops that remain at Fort *Frederick*, and that are, agreeable to the Directions of our Act of Assembly, ordered to keep Ranging at a small Distance beyond the Frontier Settlements.”

Leit this Message should fail of having the desired Effect, I thought it my Duty to send the Earl of *Loudoun* immediate Advice of what had passed, to inclose his Lordship the original Address, which the Lower House had presented to me the 19th of that Month, and to tell him that unless a Supply of Provisions was sent to Fort *Cumberland*, without Delay, the Garrison would be greatly distressed, and obliged, perhaps, in a short Time, to abandon the Place for want of Food; and I desired his Lordship to give such provisional Orders as he should think proper, for the Preservation of that Fort, in Case the Lower House should come to such a final Resolution as their Address seemed to promise. The Earl of *Loudoun* being then at *Albany*, my Letter did not reach him before the 2d of *November*: The next Day he was pleased to return the following Answer:

“ *Sir*, Last Night I had the Favour of yours of *October* the 21st, with an Account of the Proceedings of your Assembly, and a Copy of their Address to you: I must own the Restriction your Assembly endeavoured to lay on the Troops raised by your Province last Spring, surprized me, as it interfered with the King's undoubted Prerogative of Commanding all his Subjects in Arms, either by himself, or those he appoints under him. However the Troops were wise enough to obey his Majesty's Orders, given them by those who alone had Power to give them, and I was in Hopes the Gentlemen that compose the Assembly had reconsidered that *Affair*, and seen the Error of it; but your Letter, and their Address, have shewn me that I was mistaken, and yet I cannot help having that Charity for my Fellow-Subjects to believe that this *Affair* has not appeared to them in it's true Light; for I cannot think that the Assembly of *Maryland* ever intended to invade the King's undoubted Prerogative, nor can I possibly believe that they intend to throw the Frontier Garrisons of his Majesty's Dominions into the Enemies Hands, particularly when those Garrisons are in their own Province, and so essential to their own Protection, and yet this Measure is big with all those Consequences, both from it's own Nature, and still more so from the Season in which it is taken, the Account of it arriving to me late on the 2d of *November*, in the Back Country of the Province of *New-York*, by which Measures they not only refuse their Aid to the Common Cause, and desert the Interest and Security of their own Province, but by the Season they have taken this Resolution in, put it out of the Power of the King's Servants to remedy the End that the Execution of such a Measure cannot miss to have. From this Light of Things, which is the true one, I cannot doubt but your Assembly will immediately take such Resolutions as shall enable you to provide effectually for the Security of that important Post at Fort *Cumberland*, so as to prevent it's being abandoned, and put into the Enemy's Possession, which would be the Effect of such a Resolution. I must further remind you of the uninterrupted Orders that have been communicated to all the Governments in *North-America*, from his Majesty's Secretaries of State, from the Year 1754 to this Time, to be aiding and assisting to his Commander in Chief in *North-America*, in supplying Troops, &c. and in Consequence of his Majesty's Commands to me of applying to the different Provinces for such Aid as I see necessary for the Common Cause, I do demand from the Province of *Maryland*, that the 500 Men, furnished for the Common Cause, and employed by me this last Summer in the Defence of their Garrisons on their Frontiers, be continued in the Service this Winter, as absolutely necessary for the Defence of their own Province, and the Defence of his Majesty's Dominions. As to their disposing of the Troops in the Winter, I have the King's Commission to command all Men that are or shall be in Arms in *North-America*, I am on the Spot, and whilst the King does me the Honour to continue that Commission to me, I will execute it, and if any Officer or Soldier presumes to disobey my Orders, I will treat him as the Law directs. If my Business can possibly permit me, I will come immediately to *Annapolis*, where I do not doubt but you and I will be able to set Things in such a Light, as will be perfectly satisfactory to the Gentlemen of your Assembly, and to every other Man that has the Safety and Prosperity of *Maryland*, at Heart, and indeed of every Man that has at Heart the Prosperity and Safety of his Majesty's Subjects and Dominions in *North-America*. As the Business I am engaged in may put it out of my Power