

“ to make this Journey so soon as I could wish, I must beg that you will take every Measure to bring your
 “ Assembly to a right Understanding of this so essential a Point, both for themselves and his Majesty’s Do-
 “ minions in *North-America*, and that you will, from Time to Time, acquaint me by Express of what Re-
 “ solutions are taken in this Affair.”

This Letter of his Lordship’s I communicated to the Lower House the 18th of *November*, but they paid so little Regard to it, that in the Supply Bill which they a few Days afterwards offered to the Upper House, it was expressly provided and directed, that the Troops then in the Pay of the Province should be forthwith reduced to 300 Men, and the Service of those 300 (*not a Part of them only*) was restrained, as the printed Bill will evince, in such a Manner as to compel them to abandon the Post where his Lordship had stationed some of them, and in such a Manner as to deprive all the King’s Officers of any Command over them. The Gentlemen of the Upper House having returned this Bill with a Negative, those who had framed it, desired me to transmit a Copy thereof to his Lordship, together with an Address, in order that he might be the better able to judge of their Proceedings, and Zeal to promote his Majesty’s Service. On the Receipt of this Bill and Address, his Lordship wrote the Letter, which is quoted in your Address as an Evidence of his having conceived a good Opinion of the Zeal of *that* Lower House of Assembly to promote the Service of his Royal Master: How far the Letter will support what you suggest, let the Unprejudiced determine: I shall only repeat it:

“ S I R,

New-York, December 30, 1757.

“ I had *this Day* the Favour of your Letter by Express, with the Bill prepared by the Lower House, and
 “ the Address from both Houses to you. As I had seen an Extract of the military Part of that Bill before,
 “ I am ready to give my Sentiments on it; and am clearly of Opinion, that had it passed into a Law of the Pro-
 “ vince, it would have been a direct Infringement of the King’s undoubted Prerogative, and as such was
 “ very wisely rejected by the Upper House; at the same Time, I am willing to believe, that the Assembly had
 “ not considered it in that Light, or they would never have framed it in that Manner; nor had they consider-
 “ ed that Right of the King of commanding his Subjects in Arms, which is a Right undisputed every where,
 “ or they would never have disputed the Power of his Commission, to have marched the Troops, raised by them
 “ for the Defence of his Dominions, even out of your Province, which I do not understand I have done with
 “ Regard to them, which was to Fort *Cumberland*, from the best Accounts I have been able to procure; but
 “ that does not come to be the Question; for if they will consider what has happened in almost all the other
 “ Provinces, they will find, they are single in the Opinion of the King’s Power of Marching the Provincial Troops
 “ into other Provinces. At the Meeting at *Philadelphia* it was settled last Spring, that *South-Carolina* was in
 “ Danger of a more powerful Invasion from the Enemy than they were able alone to resist, therefore it was
 “ agreed, that it was necessary they should have an additional Force sent to their Assistance, composed partly
 “ of Regular Troops, and partly of Troops raised by the other Provinces, and 200 Men did accordingly sail
 “ from *Virginia*, and are now with them; and the Troops from *North-Carolina* were in Readiness to go, but
 “ were prevented by Letters from the Commanding Officer there, on the Arrival of a Regiment of 1000 Men
 “ from *Europe*, so that they did not then stand in Need of them; there is an Instance in Point in the very
 “ next Province, who were likewise to have made up their Quota of Troops to 400 Men, if they were found
 “ Necessary, for that Service in *South-Carolina*. But further to illustrate this Point, let them reflect, that the
 “ Provincial Troops in the more Northern Provinces, that is, those of *New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay,*
 “ *Rhode-Island, Connecticut,* and the *Jerseys*, have for 3 Years last past been serving in the Province of *New-*
 “ *York*: There was an Attempt about 18 Months ago 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 in-
 “ terposed, 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 Mea-
 “ sure 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 Jars 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 One Thousand 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, altho’ his Majesty’s
 “ Servant in the Execution of that Trust, has had a particular Regard to the Ease and Security of the Pro-
 “ vince 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 *Mary-*
 “ *land*, but to give every Aid to the Common Cause in their Power, I can have no Doubt that on a cool
 Reflection