

Ease & Satisfaction in your Administration. Your early Declaration that you will always make it your Business to promote His Majesty's Service & the Interest of these Colonies & that you will freely communicate to me the measures that you shall esteem likely to contribute to that End is highly agreeable to me as it gives me an opportunity of assuring you that I will make it my Study to deserve your Confidence & that your Advice in any thing that might concern the publick Service will with me always have the greatest weight & Influence. You are I presume no Stranger to his Majesty's having been pleased to honour me with a Commission to take the Command of the Forces that may be raised for the Defence of these Colonies against the Encroachments & Invasions of His Majesty's Enemies, & from your generous Professions I flatter myself with hopes that nothing will be wanting on your part to enable me to execute His Majesty's Commission with some Reputation & to repel the Dangers that at this time threaten us. It would be I am persuaded impertinent in me to insist on or even hint at the fatal Consequences that would attend our conniving at the Encroachments that the French have lately made on His Majesty's Dominions in this part of the Continent or suffering them to remain Masters of the Forts which they have built on the Frontiers of that Province, of this you are extremely sensible & I will not doubt but your Assembly when they meet again will shew a just regard to your Recommendation of the Service to their Consideration & will manifest their Patriotism by granting such Supplies as the Exigency of Affairs & the Danger that threatens their Country does at this time demand. indeed without large Assistance from them & the neighbouring Colonies I despair of answering in the least His Majesty's Expectations & royal Intention in honouring me with such a Commission & I shall be under the disagreeable necessity of excusing my Failure or Inaction & attribute them to the want of such succours as His Majesty by his Secretary gives me room to expect from his good & loyal American Subjects. Should my hopes of your Assembly's Disposition prove well founded you will be kind enough to advise me by Express thereof & acquaint me in what manner you judge they will be most inclined to afford us their Assistance that I might regulate my Conduct or lay my Plan of Operations accordingly.

2<sup>d</sup> I returned last Sunday from Williamsburg where I left the Virginia Assembly sitting. they had granted the Sum of £20000 for the Service & were proceeding to prepare a Bill for levying a number of Forces at once in that province by obliging each Cty to furnish a certain quota.

3<sup>d</sup> I should be much obliged to you for endeavouring to get me Intelligence of the number of the Enemy at Venango &

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