

Letter Bk. II. that on the 12th & 13th Inst. Expresses arrived there from General Johnsons Camp on Lake George with Lett^{rs} importing that a Body of 8000 or 9000 French & Indians had been discovered by his Scouts within 20 Miles of his Encampment or Fort & advancing towards it, On the Receipt of this Intelligence the General called Gov^r Hardy Lieu^t Governor Delancey & all the Field Officers that were at Albany to a Council of war & on their breaking up Impress-Warrants were issued for all the Waggon^s & Horses that could be got to carry Provisions up to the Army. Col^o Scuyler with the Jersey Regiment that was just come to Albany from Oswego & some Provincial Troops that had with leave left General Johnson a few Days before marched towards Lake George to reinforce him & the two British Regiments were ordered to prepare to follow them, but General Johnson intimating in the mean time that such a motion seemed to him unnecessary & that the Scout's Report was without Foundation the Orders that General Shirley had given were countermanded & the People's Apprehensions of Danger begin to decrease. General Johnson I suppose will garrison the Fort that he is building on Lake George with some of the Men under his Command & send the Rest home for Winter Quarters. Upon the Indians making Incursions into Pens^a about a month ago & murdering many of the Inhabitants Gov^r Morris convened the Assembly of that Province & intreated them to take some measures to preserve their Country & enable the People to make some Defence, the Assembly has been sitting ever since but done nothing because the Governor will not pass an Act to tax the Proprietary's Estate as well as those of his Tenants, the Gov^r tells me they had sent him a Militia Bill but such a One as was never thought of in any other Country & seems to be calculated to answer no Purpose farther than to amuse the People, thus are we unhappily circumstanced (for I think I may speak of Maryland as of Pensilvania) & for want of having these Controversies in some manner determined the Proprietaries & their Tenants are equal Sufferers. We impatiently desire to know what Steps will be taken in Consequence of General Braddocks Defeat & the Issue of this Campaign, for my own Part I hope not less than four or five Regiments will be sent over & beleive that that Number with those that are already here & three or four Thousand Irregulars will find enough Business on their hands if it is determined to cut off the Communication between the Enemy's Northern & Southern Settlements. this Year's Experience I flatter myself has demonstrated that the Colonies are not to be depended on for Assistance & unless the People are obliged by an Act of Parliament to furnish Horses Waggon^s &c & to the utmost of their Power to forward any