

sat a Month with<sup>t</sup> doing any thing & have adjourned them- Letter Bk. I.  
selves for a Fortnight. The Virg<sup>a</sup> Assembly is also sitting &  
I am afraid to as little purpose. This being our Situation I  
leave you to judge what must be our Prospect; the Enemy  
encrease & destroy our timorous Inhabitants with Impunity,  
those that are more remote from Danger content themselves  
with pitying such as are exposed, or perhaps condemn them  
for Cowardice, but will not move to their Assistance, or unless  
they can at the same time gratify their own Passions send  
them the least Support. Was I writing to a Person who had  
not been conversant with or read the Journals of our Assem-  
bly's Proceedings I should be afraid that such an Account  
might lead him to suspect my Veracity, as it would be natural  
for him to argue from the palpable Absurdity of what I say  
with respect to the Behaviour of our People or rather their  
Representatives that such Conduct is inconceiveable & impos-  
sible, but to you who must have learnt from Experience that  
we reason very differently in these parts of His Majesty's  
Dominions from what his Subjects in Great Britain are apt to  
do, our Proceedings at this time of the most imminent Danger  
cannot be very strange or surprizing. The Beginning of this p. 194  
Month I received in a Lett<sup>r</sup> from General Shirley a Commis-  
sion & Instructions to take the Command of all the Forces  
that shall be raised in these Southern Colonies & with them  
make another Attempt on Fort Du Quesne, at least cause a  
Diversion to prevent the Enemy's Reinforcing their Garrisons  
to the Northw<sup>d</sup> from their Forts & Settlements on the Ohio.  
Had His Excellency sent me Money to raise & support the  
Men that he bids me take the Command of, & instead of  
ordering what Field Pieces there were in Virg<sup>a</sup> round to  
N York have sent hither a Train of Artillery & a sufficient  
Number of small Arms & Ammunition (of which these Colo-  
nies are in great want; I should have entertained some hopes  
of being able effectually to secure these Colonies at least; but  
without Men or Money, Provisions, Arms, Ammunition or  
Credit, I cannot think the Reduction of Fort Du Quesne this  
summer will be easily effected. Inclosed is a Copy of my  
Speech to the Assembly at the Opening of this Session with  
the Addresses of both Houses & my Answers, in one of which  
you see I told the Burgesses I concluded they would act like  
rational Creatures & honest Men or to that effect, but I begin  
to fear that their Actions will shew that I did not know my  
Men, or that I said rather more than I beleived. I cannot  
learn that any Lett<sup>rs</sup> have been received from Europe since  
those dated in Nov<sup>r</sup>. The second Packett is not arrived so that  
we are entirely ignorant what Measures are taking at home,  
or whether a Rupture between the two Nations is absolutely