

pay Officers at the End of this American War being much less Letter Bk. III
than it will be if different measures are pursued I cannot conclude this Article without observing that if my hands had not been tied up by such Instructions as empty Coffers seem to have dictated I should many Months ago have had a Regiment of Maryland Troops under my Command & in all probability have been enabled to prevent any Incursions of Indians into this Province & thereby have saved a great part of the £1600 which His Ldp's Agent tells me he has lost by the Back Inhabitants deserting their plantations to avoid the Barbarities of the Savages. I am glad you pressed M^r Calvert to persuade My Lord to make his Tenants a present of some Arms & if he would recover their Affections let him do so; but I dare not speak lest it should be thought that I am courting the people's Favour at another's Expence. I am concerned to find the Instruction lately sent concerning Ordinary Lycences was given with so much Regret or that it is thought a great favour I assure you the Concession does not appear to many here in that light & I heartily wish for His Lordship's Sake more than my own that I had been ordered to wave the Dispute about them before I was thro your Interest honoured with a Lieut^t Colonel's Commission Our Assembly is now sitting & have framed a Bill for granting £40,000 for his Majesty's Service but as it does not exempt His Ldp's Mannours & some Lands which he has ordered to be reserved in the populous parts of the province from the Land Tax which is imposed as one of the Funds for sinking the Money I ought in Obedience to a Letter which I have lately received from M^r Calvert to reject the Bill & be guilty of such Reasoning as Gov^r Morris has been in defending his Superiour's Instructions, but by what I can find His Lordship's Council & best Friends will advise me very differently & insist on my disobeying for once M^r Calvert's Order, unless those Arms should haply arrive before the Bill can be offered me. Whether I shall be approved or condemned for this Step I cannot predict but am in hopes that the arguments which may be used to convince His Lordship that the preservation of his Province depends on a Supply Bill's being passed at this Juncture & that his Ldp's Annual proportion of the intended Tax will be less than the Interest of the Money which according to his Agent's Account he lost last year will excuse me for not insisting so strenuously on what His Ldp & M^r Calvert distinguish by the name of prerogative. I would not imply by any thing that has been said that I at all approve of the Assembly's Conduct, on the Contrary I think them absolutely inexcusable for the part they have acted on this Occasion & if an Act of Generosity in His Ldp had afforded me the least Room I would not have despaired of