

Letter Bk. III himself in my favour, I embrace this Opportunity of making my Acknowledgments to him, & beg the favour of you to present or send him my Letter; To return again to the Army on the Footing of a Lieutenant Colonel with a prospect of being obliged to serve many years in that Capacity here where I have had a Govern<sup>t</sup> is not I think what I ought to desire especially if there is a Glimpse of hopes that Success will some Day attend your kind Solicitations on my behalf. I suppose General Shirley will never refuse a good Govern<sup>t</sup> but I much doubt whether he will at this time of Life be able to win the Affections of a strange & new People. The Sentiments of the Inhabitants of N England & the Islanders may not possibly be quite similar & tho he might during many years Residence among them have well studied the former yet perhaps he will find some Difficulty in pleasing or conforming to the Customs of the latter. I am afraid the Gentl<sup>m</sup> mentioned as his Successor will have a difficult Task to manage that people who are not looked on to be the most tractable & can make their Governors a good deal dependant I think M<sup>r</sup> Belchier is said to have lost Money in their Service & I do not find that the General has amassed any great fortune. We imagined M<sup>r</sup> Pownall was to succeed M<sup>r</sup> Belchier who must certainly very shortly leave the Jerseys destitute of a Governor but I presume M<sup>r</sup> Pownall will be glad to exchange his Expectations of that for an Appointment to the other Province—So far by way of Answer, I now proceed to give you a brief Account of the present posture of our Affairs in America. For the plan of Operations concerted at N York I refer you to Governor Dinwiddie's last Speech to his Assembly in which however you will see he enjoins Secrecy. The Troops that are raising in the Colonies Northward of the Iersies will make a Body of 8000 or 9000 Men & I hope they will not let so much of the Summer elapse as they did last year before they begin their March toward Crown Point. All the Regulars & the Iersey Provincials commanded by Col<sup>o</sup> Scuyler are proceeding to Oswego, which place I hope is safe, but it has been reported & beleived that the Enemy were preparing to attack it before the Garrison could be reinforced or receive fresh Supplies of Provision of which it is said they were a few Weeks ago in great Want. The General was pleased since our Assembly met to send me a Commission & Instructions to take the Command of all the Forces that should be raised in these Southern Colonies for an Expedition to the Westward. I thanked him for his good Intentions & assured him that if the Colonies would enable me I should readily undertake the Service, but as I have not learned that the Pensilvanians or Virginians have yet come to any Resolution