

Morris, of the dangerous Situation of the three Provinces under your respective Governments, and the proceedings of the Assemblies within them, that there seems to be not the least Appearance of any provision's being made for prosecuting the propos'd Expedition under your Command agst the French Settlem^{ts} on the Ohio, the succeeding in w^{ch} it seems to me, would deliver you in the most effectual manner, from the Distresses, under w^{ch} Virginia and Pensilvania now labour from the Ravages of the French and their Indians.

I can't find that the Assemblies of those two Provinces have any thing further in view than the bare protection of their own Frontiers agst the growing Incursions of the Enemy; and as to your own Assembly, they are upon the point of disbanding the only Company they have at a time when his Maj^y's Fort Cumberland within the limits of the Province of Maryland, & several of his Maj^y's Stores in it, is in danger of falling into the Enemy's Hands.—

As to my taking upon me, Sir, to throw the whole Expence of supporting an Expedition from the Western Colonies to the Ohio upon the Crown, after his Maj^y hath been at so great an one in the Reg^{ts} he has already rais'd here, & sent, & is still sending over; and whilst the New England Colonies, & those of New York & New Jersey, whose Abilities don't exceed those of the Western Colonies, have besides raising Troops for the defence of their own Frontiers, rais'd upwards of 9000 Men for the asserting his Maj^y's just Rights & Dominions upon the Lake Champlain, & the Lake Ontario, &c, it is what I can't justify; especially now we are appriz'd from publick Acc^{ts} in News papers, & private Letters from England, that the Arrival of Lord Loudon may be soon expected here with the Chief Command of his Maj^y's Forces in North America.

I am likewise in hourly Expectation of receiving his Maj^y's Commands by General Webb concerning the plan of Operations, he would have prosecuted this year, w^{ch} is another Reason why I can't send you a peremptory Answer to the points propos'd to me in your two Letters, before I receive those Orders: But your Honour may depend upon my sending it to you, as soon as they arrive.

In the mean time I beg you would be pleas'd to acquaint Col: Washington, that the Appointment of him to the second Command in the propos'd Expedition upon the Ohio, will give me great Satisfaction & pleasure; that I know no Provincial Officer upon this Continent, to whom I would so readily give it as to himself; that I shall do it, if there is nothing in the King's Orders, w^{ch} I am in continual Expectation of, that interferes wth it; & that I will have the pleasure of answering his Letter immediately after my receiving them.