

the Act is to endure be about £400 Currency. As many of Letter Bk. III the Back Inhabitants abandoned their Plantations on Account of the Incursions of the Indians & the unhappy distracted & defenceless Condition of the Province deterred people from taking up Land or making Settlements as usual His Ldp's Revenue from Lands was £1600 less last year than in the preceeding, the Interest of which as His Ldp's Agent rightly observes is more than his proportion of the Tax at present imposed will amount to. Had the Assembly broke up at this time without making some Provision for the Defence & Security of the Frontiers it is more than probable, that the Western Settlements for a great many Miles in Extent would within these twelve Months have been deserted & thereby His Ldp must necessarily have lost at least the Quit Rents of such Lands which would be considerable, & besides scarcely any purchasers would be found for Lands in the more populous parts of the Province & that Fountain of Wealth would be stopped & His Ldp's Land Office in effect shut up till the Conclusion of this American War or the Reduction of Fort Du Quesne & the Ohio Indians should render people's property more secure. Was His Ldp's Case my own I am sure I should never have hesitated a moment to contribute my Share with the people to defend the province & annoy the Enemy, & I am well convinced that if His Ldp had been on the Spot He would have suffered his Estate to be much more burthened than I have done; but as His Ldp might possibly in England think very differently from what He would in America I am not without some Apprehensions that this Step which at the Importunity of his Friends I have taken will be censured as a culpable Concession & subversive of His Ldp's Rights & prerogatives as I was afraid after what happened in Pensilvania last Summer between Gover<sup>r</sup> Morris & his Assembly that our People would as usual follow the Quakers Example I sent all their Messages Addresses &c to M<sup>r</sup> Calvert, acquainted him with my Fears & desired His Ldp's particular Instructions for my Conduct in Case the Assembly of this Province should on their being pressed to grant Supplies follow the Track that their Neighbours had marked out for them. Tho I have received Instructions from My Lord on other Matters since my Letters got home yet he has favoured me with none on that Subject, but M<sup>r</sup> Calvert in a Letter that I have lately received from him says "His Ldp does not doubt of your following & guarding against any Invasion on His Rights similar in your Defence on His behalf as Governor Morris has done for the Proprietors of Pensilvania." by this I understand that His Ldp is absolutely ag<sup>st</sup> my suffering His Estate or property to be subjected to any Burthen or Tax on any Account or Con-