

& also of all the Vessels that General Shirley had built on Ontario Lake. This News is confirmed to me by a Lett^r from Lord Loudoun who is at Albany but His Ldp does not descend to particulars neither have we any other Information concerning the Number of the Enemy or Fate of the Garrison than what is given us in the publick Papers. In his Lett^r His Ldp is very importunate with us for Levies for the Royal American Regiment without the Assistance of which he apprehends it would be difficult to oppose the Enemy should they presume to advance into Pens^a or the Province of New York before the People can recover from the Consternation into which they are thrown by this unhappy Accident. Our Assembly is to meet this Day to consider of the present Situation of Affairs & to appropriate (I hope) part of the £40000 in such a manner as His Ldp is pleased to direct I do not conceive they will refuse to comply with His Ldp's Requisition at this Critical Juncture but sure I am that they will not send Men out of this Province without the greatest Reluctance & unless an Act be made for drafting them from the several Counties I am certain t'will be impossible to raise any Number of free Men in this Province. Few but Indented Servants have enlisted with the Recruiting Officers that have been sent among us & that Method of recruiting will distress the Country infinitely more than a Decimation of its free Inhabitants. I am glad an Act of Parliament is passed directing in what manner Servants may be enlisted for That if any thing can will induce the Assemblies to take the Burden of Recruiting on themselves thereby to prevent the Officers coming among us. The Pensilvania Assembly has been sometime sitting but without any Design as it is said of taking such Measures as the present posture of Affairs & the deplorable Circumstances of their distant Inhabitants demand. You will observe what different Sentiments Governor Denny & the Assembly entertain of the Condition of the Frontiers of that Province, You may easily guess how Maryland is covered by them when you are told that they have scarce a Family remaining to the Westward of Monocasy which runs by Frederick Town in this Province, that the Quakers have put Pensilvania in a better Posture of Defence than the neighbouring Colonies & prevented the frequent Incursions of the Indians the Publick Papers will no doubt shew, to me 'tis really astonishing that the Assembly should advance such Things & proceed in such a manner when they are on the very Brink of Ruin & when nothing but the Exertion of their whole Strength can avert the imminent Destruction that threatens them. As the Pensilvanians retire & give the Indians free Access to our Northern Frontier our People flee also & tho the Garrison at Fort Frederick & the Detachments

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