

Letter Bk. I. of Militia on our Western Frontiers amount to 400 Men, yet the fine Settlement on Conegochiegh is quite deserted & few Inhabitants now remain beyond the South Mountain. What an Opinion will this give you of our hardy & resolute Germans, Experience teaches us that they are possessed with much the same Spirit as the Natives & that Bravery is by no means their distinguishing Characteristic. It has been rumoured that the Provincials will be scarcely able to proceed to Crown Point this Season, they have suffered it seems a good deal from Sickness & do not themselves entertain such sanguine hopes of Success as they were used to do. You may observe in the Gazette that there is room to hope Commodore Holmes has taken some French Men of War off of Louisburg but We do not always put entire Confidence in New England Fisher Men. Since I received His Majesty's Declaration of War I have been applied to for Letters of Marque which it is usual for Governors as Vice-Admirals to issue in these Colonies but you will be pleased to remember & remind His Ldp that I have no Commission to act as Vice Admiral in this Province tho His Ldp has appointed a Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty. I have myself undertaken to make out & with the Judges of the Land Office to examine & authenticate a Rent Roll for this County which I hoped to have compleated very shortly but this extraordinary Session of Assembly will occasion some Delay as I shall find but little time for such Business while they are sitting. Inclosed you will see a Packett directed for M^r Iohn Hide which is left open that you may if you will give Yourself the trouble observe what a Task he desires to impose on me upon the Hint you gave him concerning the Lands in Baltimore County I am throughly convinced by his Conversation in London, His Transactions here & by the Letters & Papers which I now return him that he is absolutely averse to selling the Land or satisfying the Creditors & that all he endeavours at is to save Appearances.

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I find there is little owing from his Lands to My Ld, The Farmers having made payment to His Ldp & whenever the Land shall be occupied the Farmers will recover the Arrears of Quit Rent. I have been unable as yet to get a Bill of Excha for you or that of Parker's renewed, I am promised one within these two or three Days but Capt Steuart waits for my Letter & the Duplicate must be put on board a Vessel that sails to Morrow. however I shall have an Opportunity of transmitting it next Week & in the mean time am S^r &c.

P. S. Since writing the above I have got Bills for £110, w^{ch} You will find inclosed.