

they find nothing can be done without their Concurrence their Idea of their own Priveleges & Authority grows in Proportion & they seem very desirous to be convened as often as possible. The Truth of this Observation I think your Ldp will be sufficiently convinced of by the Proceedings of our Gentⁿ last Session. The Journal herewith transmitted will shew that they were not alarmed or very much affected with the News of the Loss of Oswego; but it would be almost impossible to relate what Tricks were played by some to prevent their paying any Regard to Lord Loudoun's Requisition. The Members endeavoured for more than a fortnight to persuade each other that His Ldp's Information concerning the Fate of Oswego was without Foundation & consequently that there was not such an absolute Necessity for the Royal American Regiment being instantly compleated. Afterwards they would have inserted such a Clause in the Act for His Majestys Service concerning part of the Shilling a Hhd as must have inevitably damned the Bill in the Upper House, & they asked me as it were by several Addresses to recommend it to them to make some Provision for Arms & Ammunition that they may thence take Occasion to begin Disputes & postpone or neglect the Business on which they were especially convened & which I had in my Speech at the Opening of the Session earnestly recommended to their Consideration. Your Ldp will be informed by M^r Calvert (to whom I have already transmitted a Copy of the Act) that Provision has been at length made for raising 300 Men in this Province for the Royal Americans & a Sum of Money also appropriated to finish Fort Frederick & support a third Company of 100 Men for the better Defence of our own Frontiers. As soon as the Bill was passed I granted Commissions for raising the New Company, & also appointed persons to recruit for the American Regiment, but I am sorry to find that none of them have hitherto been very successful. As M^r Goldsborough declined acting as Keeper of the Eastern Shore Rent Roll on Acco^t of his Health I have presumed to appoint M^r W^m Thomas to that Office in Confidence that he will not be wanting in his Endeavours to give your Ldp satisfaction, & Reason to approve of such my Appointment. I have also in Obedience to an Instruction that your Ldp was pleased to give me some time since in favour of the Rev^d M^r M^cPher-son presented him on the Decease of M^r Clagett to Will^m & Mary Parish in Charles Co^{ty} which Step I flatter myself your Ldp will be pleased to approve of. I am &c.

Letter Bk. I.

p. 244