

& to exert their united Force in Defence of themselves & His Majesty's Dominions. The Assemblies of Pens^a & this Province more particularly have I think sufficiently shewn that they have nothing so much at heart & desire nothing more than to encrease their own Power & render the other Branches of the Legislature odious or contemptible. They perceive that nothing can be now done without their Concurrence & thence conceive a great Opinion of their own Importance; The Oftener they are convened the less tractable they grow & become more extravagant in their Demands on the Gov^t I hear Lord Loudoun has writ in a more peremptory manner than usual to Governor Denny demanding a large Sum of Money from that Province towards establishing a general Fund for His Majesty's Service & requiring them to build Barracks at Phil^a for the Reception & Accommodation of a Battalion of the American Regiment Lest the Soldiers should be otherwise ordered to quarter themselves on the Inhabitants the Assembly will perhaps think proper to provide the Barracks but tis a doubt whether any Regard will be paid to the other part of His Ldp's Requisition. In the last Letters that have been sent us from the Northward we are told that the French Army at Crown Point consists of more than 13,000 when all the Troops that are under the Command of Lord Loudoun do not amount to 11,000. The people of the Northern Colonies are exceedingly anxious about the Event of this Campaign & most earnestly hope there will be no Action this year in that quarter. Our Accounts from the Southward are I think less favourable tho there is room to hope that the Report concerning the Cherokees having obliged Major Lewis to surrender to the French the Fort that He has at their own Request been building in the Cherokee Country is without foundation. Two Spies have been lately taken near Fort Cumberland. One of them being known to have deserted from the Virginia Regiment the Commanding Officer ordered to be hanged & the other has been sent hither for my Examination. I have acquainted His Ldp with what the Fellow confessed & acknowledged last Sunday before two of the Council, M^r Brice, M^r Bordley & myself & as I cannot give you a more particular Account in other words I shall give you the following Extract from my Letter to His Ldp. (the Extract here inserted begins "He was about 23 years ago born at a place called Marcus Hook," & ends with the words "Lest Johnson should impose on me as he had on him & thereupon obtain his Liberty.") I am in hopes that the Fate of these two Spies will save Fort Cumberland this winter, tho unless these Colonies pursue other measures next year than they have lately I think we can expect nothing less than that the Enemy will next Spring make themselves Masters of that

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