

Letter Bk. I. of the next Assembly to make a Struggle for a Sum of Money to finish it—The Journals of both Houses of Assembly herewith transmitted will shew with how little success I met them the 25<sup>th</sup> of March on the Business I acquainted you with in my last Letter. the Ohio Affair you will perceive was scarcely heard with temper, & the Method proposed for raising Money to answer the Expence of sending Comm<sup>rs</sup> to Albany was such as could not be concurred with. you will see that I am reduced to great Streights, by the People's determined Resolution to make His Majesty's Service & His Ldp's Interest clash if by any means it can be so brought about: that I permitted the upper House at their earnest Request to return the Bill curtailed only, as matters were brought to such a Crisis, I hope will not appear too indulgent, & I should be extremely obliged by your advising me how to steer my Course when such Difficulties shall again happen to occur. The pressing Sollicitations of the several Govern<sup>ts</sup> around us alarmed at the great Progress of the French in making themselves Masters of the Country westward of these Provinces; have necessitated me to meet again our Assembly the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst when I hope to find them better disposed to promote the Service so earnestly recommended in the Letters from the Lords of Trade & the Earle

p. 42 of Holderness. A small Fort that the Virginians had erected on the River Ohio a Body of near 1000 French Troops have about a week since summoned & taken before the Forces raised in Virginia Carolinas & New York could muster & go to its Defence or Relief. The Gov<sup>t</sup> at home have sent Orders to the Independant Companies at New York & Carolina to join these Troops which will make them near 1000 compleat, an unequal Force by what intelligence we have received to the French already posted on & about that River—Your Favour of the 5<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup> with His Ldp's Instructions I have lately received & shall shew the greatest Diligence in procuring & sending satisfactory Answers to the particulars thereby enjoined; The Laws I am getting transcribed (so as to reject those expired or dissented to) which returned authenticated I hope will give satisfaction. An express Answer to what relates to the Boundaries, the Examinations & observations I had before & have now ordered to be made will very soon as I before observed enable me to make; I have by this sent the References to supply the Defect complained of in the Answer to Logan's state of the Claims &c & I hope a Reference to the 74<sup>th</sup> Article of my private Instructions will induce you to excuse the seeming impropriety of the Expression concerning the Newcastle Radius in my first Letter which might be in part occasioned by the sole way of measuring in use here to wit by the Chain (maugre Hill or Dale that shall occur), by a