

Letter Bk. I. is part of what is mentioned by the Penns to be by them ceded  
 p. 70 to Ld Baltimore in Lieu of what He had given up elsewhere.—Least I should not have been accurate or particular enough in a former Letter which the Tenor of His Ldps Answer by his Instructions gives me reason to fear I was not; before I give Orders for surveying more than one of the Counties I must desire your advice on that matter. By Surveying the Counties I only meant running the Out-Lines & observing the principal Rivers & Streams, not running the Courses of or resurveying every Patentees Land (which last Operation or Process I am doubtful is expected but that would cost a very considerable Sum) & by comparing the number of Acres in each County (which may be known by my intended Survey) with the Number of Acres patented from the Office & charged in the Rent Rolls, I thought one should discover in the Gross what Quantity of Land was yet vacant or occupied without the Occupants paying any Acknowledgment for the same, & by our making this publick that People would be induced to examine & look out for such vacant Lands & take out Patent for the same, this was my Scheme & it would be executed at the Expence I mentioned or a little more, which if His Ldp approves of it shall immediately be put in execution.— I have taken this Opportunity of transmitting Copies of the Laws that were enacted in the two Sessions of Assembly held last February & May as also Copies of the Proceedings of both  
 p. 71 Houses of Assembly at a Session held according to prorogation the 16<sup>th</sup> of July last at which time I was induced or rather obliged to meet them by the repeated Sollicitations of Gov<sup>r</sup> Dinwiddie & by a piece of Intelligence that was just before brought; “that a Body of 900 French & Indians had on the 3<sup>d</sup> of July attacked the Virginia Forces amounting to about 400 Men encamped on the Back part of that Province under the Command of Col<sup>o</sup> Washington & after having killed & wounded 100 of the English obliged him to surrender on very hard terms. At the news of this Stroke many of our Back Inhabitants as well as those in Virginia & Pensilvania were so much alarmed as to talk of deserting their Habitations. This had some weight with our Assembly & they voted £6000 Curr: for the Support of the Virginians in their Enterprize; The Bill for raising the Money which I have inclosed a Copy of was lying before the Upper House when I received His Ldp’s Instructions, which would have occasioned my Dissent to the Bill, had not the earnest Request of the Council & the Consideration of what fatal Consequence our refusing any longer to aid the Virginians must have been of to all the neighbouring Colonies as well as Virginia who would not be able without our Assistance to reinforce their Troops time