

the Provinces of His Majesty's Extensive Dominions on this Continent; which are therefore things every man who is a real Lover of his Country will to the utmost Avoid.

As to the Dispute of what Province Fort Cumberland belongs to, 'tis a thing I never heard disputed, but by all men I have met with, was deemed to be in Maryland; but be that as it will, 'tis of no Consequence, nor has it any thing to do in this Affair, nor had I the least Intention of Loading Maryland or easing any other Province, by sending the Provincial Troops of Maryland to it, and in my orders at that time, I shewed the greatest attention to Maryland in Employing the whole of the Troops raised by them, in Covering their Frontiers & securing the Inlets into their Country when I actually sent 200 of the Provincials of Virginia by Sea, at the Expence of that Province to South Carolina & had 200 more of the Virginia Provincial Troops ready to be Carried there, if that Service had not been provided for, by the Arrival of a Regiment of 1000 men from Europe.

I Have shewed you above that the King has the undisputed Right, that he has, by his Commission put the Execution of it into my hands, that Maryland alone have Disputed the Kings Right of Commanding His Subjects in Arms, Altho' His Majesty's Servant in the Execution of that Trust, has had a particular Regard to the Ease & security of the Province of Maryland.

When I know things really to stand on this footing and can have no doubt that the Gentlemen that Compose the Assembly of Maryland mean not only to protect the Province of Maryland, but to give Every aid to the Common Cause in their power; I can have no doubt that on a Cool Reflection of the General situation of the Affairs of this Country, the Duty they owe to the King & the Community, whatever Representations may have led them into the present Bill, they will immediately sett those things on a true Constitutional Footing, & Enter heartily into the Common Cause for the security of Maryland, & to give their utmost Assistance against the Common Enemy.

I Intended when I writ from Albany to have Come directly to Annapolis, but some unexpected Business put it out of my power at that time, and now I cannot fix the Time I shall be with you.

Hoping from your wise management, and the People coming to see their own true Interest, that I shall very soon have better accounts from You

I am, with Sincere Regard,
Sir

Your most obedient
Humble Servant

Loudoun.

His Excellency Governor Sharpe.