

Letter Bk. III 500 men which were then in the pay of the Province & that the Disposal of them should be left entirely to himself. This Letter I immediately laid before them but they still adhered to their Resolution & framed a Bill accordingly & sent it to the Upper House for their Concurrence. The Gentlemen who compose that House however were of opinion that some Regard ought to be shewn to the Earl of Loudoun's Requisition & as they were unwilling to invade His Majesty's prerogative or Right to command all Troops in his Dominions by himself or those he appoints they did not hesitate to return the Bill with a Negative; As the Lower House would not be prevailed on to frame a second or go upon any other Business afterwards, I soon after put an End to the Session & am now with the Earl of Loudoun's Approbation preparing to defend the Frontiers with Militia till some other more effectual Measures shall be taken for our Security. I doubt not but this proposal of our Assembly's to give up at once by a Law Fort Cumberland & a Tract of Country on this side of it 60 Miles in Extent which was till lately well settled will be represented to the Ministry by the Earl of Loudoun in proper Colours & therefore I have already sent M^r Calvert Triplicates of a minute account of all my Transactions (relative to our Troops & their Disposition) & with the Assembly during the last & the preceeding Session that in case Lord Baltimore should be called upon he might be well prepared to give answers to any questions that may be asked & I hope to justify my Conduct. I have the satisfaction to know that the Earl of Loudoun approves of the several Steps that I have taken & I flatter myself therefore that he will lay the whole Blame where it is justly due. For my own part I cannot but say that as the Assembly were determined to reduce our Forces I am glad they have openly declared so, & that they did not contrive it so as to seem willing to grant Supplies but at the same time propose such a Mode of raising the Money as would necessarily make the Proprietary's Interest clash with His Majesty's Service. Upon my advising Ld Loudoun of the Measures that the Assembly seemed resolved to pursue he was pleased to give Col^o Stanwix Discretionary orders for the garrisoning Fort Cumberland with other Troops which will I presume be immediately done, & as to Fort Frederick I shall take Care to have that always garrisoned with the Militia of this Province over whom I have (Thanks to those who represented the People in Assembly about 40 years ago) pretty ample power & Authority tho not so much as is requisite in such dangerous times as the present & I find myself sufficiently impowered likewise to impress from the Inhabitants as much provision for those that march as they shall stand in