

ince ought to support & that they would not provide for the Support of more than that Number. Before any Bill could be framed in Consequence of this Resolution I received & communicated to them another Lett<sup>r</sup> from the Earl of Loudoun wherein he desired Us to raise & provide for the Payment of an Additional Number of 400 Men over & above the five Companies which we had already on Foot & that were then posted at Fort Cumberland & Fort Frederick. As His Ldp was pleased to intimate to us in the same Letter that these 400 Men were to act in Conjunction with some other Forces that were to be employed in an Expedition to the Westward the Lower House could not for Shame refuse to comply in some measure with the Requisition but as they were only solicitous to save Appearances they took Care to prepare such a Bill for raising the Money as they knew the Upper House could not agree to. The general Plan of it was the same with that of the Bill which had been rejected by the Upper House in the preceeding Session. They did not indeed insist upon the Service of the Men being restrained in quite so absurd & ridiculous a manner as was proposed in the former Bill but they had taken Care to prevent the three Companies which were to have been formed out of the Men that have served some time on our Frontiers from being carried out of the Province, but if the 400 Additional could be raised within the time limited (which in fact was impossible on the Terms they proposed) those might act in Conjunction with His Majestys Forces. Thus the best & most experienced Men were to have been left in our Forts & the most raw & undisciplined sent on an Expedition of the utmost Importance. After this Bill had been read twice in the Upper House it was returned with a negative & the Lower House having thereupon Resolved that they would enter on no new Business I was advised by the Gentlemen of the Council to prorogue them to the 23<sup>d</sup> Inst. I was in hopes when I did so that I should not be obliged to meet them again before Winter & upon that Supposition I had with the Advice of His Ldp's Council ordered two more Companies of Militia to march to Fort Frederick intending to send some others to relieve them at the End of two Months; but I had scarcely sent away these Orders when I received Letters from M<sup>r</sup> Pitt dated the 30<sup>th</sup> of Decem<sup>r</sup> advising me of the Earl of Loudouns being recalled & requiring me to convene the Assembly of this Province without Delay & to use my utmost Endeavours & Influence to persuade them to raise a large Body of Troops for the Service of the ensuing Campaign to act in Conjunction with the Forces that Brigadier Forbes is appointed to command in this Part of America. What Weight these Letters will have with the Assemblies of the

Letter Bk. I.

p. 333

p. 334