

Letter Bk. I.

to take the matter into Consideration & to prepare such a Bill as they should judge necessary for the purpose they declined however at that time to come into the Scheme which the Virginians had proposed & which is in itself an exceeding good one, & the Answer the Gentlemen of the Lower House gave me together with what many of them dropt in private Conversation gives me great Reason to apprehend that they will never be prevailed on to prepare such a Bill as may be requisite for the Purpose, I shall however recommend it to them again at their next Session & at the same time intimate to them what they may expect in case they should refuse to come into so reasonable a proposal. I observe what you say of Colo Lloyd's having too much Business of his own, to devote so much of his time as might be necessary to the management of His Lordships Affairs, & I believe your Supposition is not without foundation, but at the same time I know that Col^o Lloyd will never choose to resign any office of Profit while he can hold it & therefore it signifies nothing to talk of his Resignation. If His Lordship is dissatisfied with Colo Lloyds Conduct & is determined to have another Agent or Agents appointed I will upon His Ldp's signifying his Pleasure for me to do so appoint the Gentlemen you mention or M^r W^m Goldsborough if you please in the stead of M^r Holliday, not that I have any objection to the Latter; but I repeat it once more Colo Lloyd never will resign any office that he holds until he finds that he can keep it no longer & therefore it will be in vain to make any Proposals whatever upon that Supposition. We hear that Admiral Boscawen is at length sailed from Hallifax, & we flatter Ourselves with hopes of receiving e'er long some agreeable Accounts from Louisburg; what General Abercromby is doing I know not, neither can I learn any thing for certain concerning his Motions. I am informed by a Person that is just come hither from Pensilvania that Montgomery's Battalion is at length arrived at Phila^a but no Acco^t has been yet received of the Vessel that was expected from Europe with Artillery & Stores for this Southern Expedition. I understand however that Brigadier Forbes has made up a small Train with some Cannon & Mortars that he collected at N. York & Phila^a but I am afraid the Troops will not be on the Allegany Mountains before the End of July or the Beginning of August. The General seems inclined to take the Maryland Troops (which are now reduced to about 350 Men) into His Majesty's Pay as Rangers during the Campaign & I hope he will be prevailed on likewise to pay them the Arrears that have become due to them since the 8th of Oct^r last in Expectation that the Assembly will reimburse him at their next Session. Those of the Men that are at Fort