

to obviate that Difficulty I have now wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Calvert on the Subject & have at the same time taken the Liberty to tell him that it does appear a little extraordinary to many here that in six years time it should never be in my Power to shew my Regard for my Secretary otherwise than by diminishing my own proper Income especially as that has been rendered by the Consequences of this War much less considerable than I expected it would be at the time that I left England. M<sup>r</sup> Ridout on his part is not wanting in Gratitude for your kind Intentions to serve him & I earnestly hope his wishes will be soon accomplished, the Collector M<sup>r</sup> Deacon is so old & infirm as to be incapable of transacting any Business & would I believe immediately resign his office for a moderate Consideration which it will be much better for M<sup>r</sup> Ridout to give than run the Risk of being disappointed by any Accident that might happen while he waits for the Collectorship's becoming vacant; I know not what Steps must be taken in order to get a Commission issued nor can I make Enquiry here lest others should be apprized of my Intention & make Application in favour of their Friends but I dare say Governor Dinwiddie can give you thorough Information & I am persuaded that he will out of Regard to M<sup>r</sup> Ridout who is known to him as well as to oblige me do any thing in his power to procure the Commission as soon as an Order for it shall be obtained. I am glad to find that Lord Loudoun has not forgot the Promise he made me before he left America, the money that he means is what is due to the Maryland Troops for their Services from the 8<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> 1757 to last April they having been induced to keep together during that time by the Promises which Ld Loudoun & General Forbes desired me to make them that if the Assembly should decline paying them They would certainly procure them payment from home. I have recommended it to the Officers that survive (for several of the Officers & many of the Men were cut off or died last Campaign & since, they having been always much exposed as Rangers in which Capacity they were of excellent Service to General Forbes) to get their Accounts made up as soon as possible which I have promised to transmit to M<sup>r</sup> Pitt & I will likewise send a Copy thereof to the Earl of Loudoun. It is but very lately that we have been free from Apprehensions about Pittsburg, our Garrison there was in my last reduced to their last meal while several Parties of the Enemy at the same time appeared on the Communication or between the several Forts which have been built on this Side Pittsburg & beyond the inhabited Parts of Pensilv<sup>a</sup> but we are told that sufficient Supplies of Provisions have been now carried & are still carrying out & that General Stanwix is far advanced on his march