

the Contents of His Ldps second Letter & pressed them to remit the Arrears that are due to the abovementioned Gent<sup>n</sup> but I find they will not comply even tho they should be dismissed for such their Refusal Indeed it is my opinion that they cannot afford to pay the sum that is required of them but at the same time I do not know any Office that can afford it better than theirs so that if His Ldp excuses them M<sup>r</sup> Wogan cannot be made sensible of His Ldp's Regard for him by any Remittances from this province. You know that if it had been possible I was to have reimbursed myself by some means or other the £50 p Ann that I was ordered to remit for M<sup>rs</sup> Hides use but hitherto I have paid every Shilling of that money out of my own Pockett & must I perceive still continue to do so. Beside this I have found myself under a necessity of advancing several sums that I shall never be repaid particularly £31 for Copying the Laws that were sent to the Board of Trade, & of expending large Sums during Iournies undertaken for His Majesty's Service & that of the Province. Add to this what I have given to my Secretary for want of Power & an Opportunity of appointing him to some place of Profit as I expected I should be able to do when I left England. This I mention lest His Ldp should require the £100 for M<sup>r</sup> Wogan at my hands & that you may know it is not in my Power to raise such a Sum by any Scheme whatever. With respect to all the Officers who are benefitted by the Sale of Lands they find a prodigious Difference between the Income of their Places at this time & before the Inhabitants were deterred from making Surveys near the Frontiers. I have been told that before I came into the Province the Chancellor's Fees from Frederick County alone have amounted to near £100, but I can assure you that all the Tob<sup>o</sup> that I receive in a year for affixing the Great Seal will not sell for as much as I am required to remit you annually. When the times will mend who can foretell? but I may venture to pronounce that if our Affairs do not assume a better Face soon the most frugal of us will be unable to make any great Addition to their Fortunes. It gives me a good Deal of Concern to be obliged to make such a Representation but as the Subject naturally led me to it I think I should not have done Justice to Myself or the other Gent<sup>n</sup> who hold Offices under His Ldp if I had declined expressing my Sentiments ingenuously & freely on the Occasion.—In the inclosed Gazette you will see an Article of News from New York which together with the Account of one Street who has lately made his Escape from Fort Du Quesne affords us great Room to beleive that the French will make an Attempt on Fort Cumberland before the End of the Campaign. This Street was a Drummer in the Pens<sup>a</sup> Forces till Fort Granville was reduced last Summer

Letter Bk. I.

p. 301

p. 302