

Letter Bk. IV

tunity of returning an answer by a Gentleman of the Army who tells me he shall set off to morrow morning for New York in order to go thence to England in the next Packet. We are indeed not a little embarrassed with this confounded Tangent for the Surveyors are again at a Stand & have desired the Commissioners to meet forthwith at the Sixty Mile Post where it seems the Line they have been lately employed in running passes at the Distance of 150 feet 6 Inches westward of the Point it ought by Calculation to have run through, so that if it was to be continued this Line would probably run farther to the Westward of the Extremity of the Radius than the Line run for a Tangent last Summer did to the Eastward of it; & how the Error is to be rectified I cannot tell: for my own part I should as I have before hinted to you be for submitting what has been already done to the Consideration of our Constituents & waiting their farther Orders but I expect the Pennsylvania Gentlemen will still insist on or making other Experiments or Trials which I am afraid will only serve to enhance the Expence without answering any good End whatever; It is really vexatious to see Business go on after such a manner & to be as it were dependant on other Persons Humours, but how to help Ourselves we know not, for were we to refuse to proceed in their own way however improper it might appear to us the Maryland Commissioners on account of past Transactions will always fall under the Suspicion of being backward & averse to carrying the Articles of Agreement into Execution. I have in some late English Papers seen the Hints that were given of the Ministry's Intention to form a Scheme for compelling these Colonies for the future to provide Pay for 10,000 Men but how the proportions are to be settled is not mentioned. If they are to be rated or burthened according to the Proportions agreed on at Philadelphia when several of the Governors met there in 1757 at the Instance of Lord Loudon, I do not think this province will be over taxed; for I took much pains at that time to have our proportion or quota reduced as low as possible: As I have already communicated to you my Sentiments (in Letters & Estimates transmitted to you the 10th of July 1758 & 26th of May 1760) concerning the most eligible & easy methods of raising large Sums of Money in this Province I must beg leave to refer you to those Letters but if no more than about £4000 stg p^r annum was to be required of us, which indeed I hope is as much as will be expected, It might be raised I apprehend by a Duty of Eighteen pence p^r Hhd on all Tobacco exported; & a Duty of Three pence (or four pence) stg p^r Gallⁿ on all Rum Wine & other Spirituous Liquors imported, to be collected by the several Naval Officers in the same manner they at present collect the Duty of Fifteen