

his Books, that it may be applyed as designed to alleviate the charge of the province so farr as it will go. Lib. H. D.

By our scituation We are a ffrontier to the ffrench of Canida and their Indians being in open Warr frequent incursions are made on both sides, Count ffrontiniack keeps 500 Men constantly at Mount Royall their next considerable ffort to Us and has this summer put ffifty Men and a years Provision into Cadaracqui a Regular ffort of stone & lime opposite to the middlemost Nation of our Indians from which ffort he galls & harasses them so that they crye aloud to me for assistance to beat them from thence which I not being able to give doubt the discouragem^t may force them to a peace with Canida, then it will appear they are nearer to Virginia & Maryland than to New York. I am informed your settlements are scattered. This defection if it should happen will be of ill consequence I doubt both to Virginia & Maryland. I have been lately at Albany and given the Indians a large present of Arms, Amunition & Cloathing, but farr short of what is wanting for their Encouragem^t This Cadaracqui diverts them from hunting so their whole dependance is vpon Us. I shall not be wanting in my Duty. By the way of New-found Land We hear Admirall Russell has taken ffifteen ffrench Men of warr and done a great deale of Damage to Marselles, I am Whitehall

Yo^r Ex^{ncies} humble Servant
Ben: ffletcher Maryland

Answer to the above Letter is as follows, Viz^t

Port of Annapolis, Novemb^r 29th 1695.

His Excell^s
Answer to
the Govern^r
of New
Yorks L^{re}

I have the favour of your Excell of October the 5th and am very glad to hear of Admirall Russells good success ag^t the ffrench and hope in God We shall hear more good News from England; but We have had no Vessell from thence this ffall, neither do I hear of any come into Virginia. P 277

I am not in the least conscios to my self that I have been any ways wanting in my duty to his most sacred Majesty according to the vtmost of my power, in assisting your Excell pursuant to her late Ma^{ts} Royall Commands, but I cannot force Assemblies more than others, but it was the only reall quarrell I had with them about assisting your Excell Governm^t of New-York; neither dare I go so farr as apparently to hazard the peace & quiet of this his Ma^{ts} province. Whitehall

I am very sorry that your Excell had not enough to give your Indians at Albany for their Encouragem^t and that the ffrench at Cadaracqui divert your Indians from hunting and