

The Bills drawn by Coll Copley for £: 362:8^s: being pro- Lib. H. D.
tested were not only a disappointm^t but a Charge to this
province. There is reason & Argum^t enough for supporting
the Indians of the ffive Nations from the conveniency & safety
they bring to Us and the neighbouring provinces if it were
decent to offer any after the Royall Command; It costs this
Province in presents & the Charge of treating & Cajolling
these Indians at least 2000^{lbs} p Annum besides the constant
Charges of the Garrisons, I have advice of Seaven hundred
ffrench come to Canida last fall with Seaventeen Saile of Ships
and Stores. Count ffrontiniack is now again busy to debauch
our Indians.

I have met with many disappointm^{ts} from the Neighbouring
Provinces yet must not suffer the ffrontiers to be neglected. I
have done and shall not Cease to do all I can with so small a
handfull of Men & less Money. This province lyes vnder
heavier Burthens than this paper can express I must confess
it is vtterly impossible for me to put the ffrontiers in such
security as I desire & they ought to be without help. There-
fore I further apply myself to yo^r Excell for assistance, accord-
ing to her late Ma^{ts} Letter, I do not question but that you may
influence the next Assembly to a further consideration of the
heavy Burthens that lye vpon this province and the great
necessity of granting a suitable assistance & am Sr.

Yo^r Excell^s humble Serv^t

Ben: ffletcher

Answer to the s^d Letters follows, Viz^t

p. 284

Port of Annapolis, March the 3^d 1695/6

His Excell^s Sr
Answer to
Govern^r of
New Yorks
Letter

Yours of the 19th of ffeb^{ry} past I received, the
which I have communicated to his Ma^{ts} hono^{ble} Coun-
cill together with your Ex^{ncies} former Letter of the
13th of December & my answer thereto of the 4th of ffeb^{ry} past
Having not Received his Ma^{ts} Royall Commands from Eng-
land by reason none of the ffleet is yet come in our Assembly
is not to meet till the last of Aprill, but then God willing your
Excell^s Letters shall be communicated to the House of Bur-
gesses, and I shall not be wanting according to my Duty to
have her late Ma^{ts} Royall Commands complied with. Your
Excell not letting of me know, according to my former desire
how much Money hath been sent to your Governm^t from that
of Virginia I fear may be a hindrance of not having any thing
more done about the late Govern^r Copleys three hundred &
odd pounds. I am very sorry to hear that the Govern^r of
Canida is still endeavouring to debauch your Indians, But I

Whitehall