

I chose to put them under this Restraint, rather than subject the Masters to the ill Conveniencies, and Hardships, which I am very sensible they frequently suffer from their Servants being indiscriminately enlisted into his Majesty's Service, for this Reason, I never allowed the Officers either of my former or present Regiment to enlist such Servants, always disapproved of the Practice of it (when unnecessary) in others, and since being invested with my present Command have forbl'd it in all as long as the Circumstances of his Majesty's service would admit

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But this is not now the Case S^r his Majesty's Orders to augment his Regiments to 1000 Men each are positive; the execution of them before the opening this Years Campaign is necessary for the Preservation of his just Rights and Dominions upon this Continent against the Incroachments and Invasions of the French and to secure his Subjects from the farther Devastations, which it must otherwise be expected they will soon make within these Colonies: the recruiting Officers have represented to me, that it will be impracticable to compleat their Regim^{ts} in time for the Service, if I continue my former Restraint upon them: The season is now far advanced and the Preparations of the Enemy to distress his Majesty's Colonies in every Part are pushing on very fast; of which the late Ravages committed at their Instigation within the Borders of Pensilvania by Indians some of which were before at peace with that Government, and others in Friendship with it should be a most alarming Proof to the Assembly.

The Assembly will not infer that because I judged it expedient to forego his Majesty's Right to the Service of indented Servants in favour of their Masters whilst I apprehended such an Indulgence would not disappoint the raising a sufficient force for repelling the Enemy from his Territories, and the protection of his Subjects in North America, it can therefore be my Judgment that it is either consistent with my Duty to the King or the safety of his subjects within these Colonies, to continue this Indulgence at a time when the great Interests of both are so apparently at Stake, and such ruinous consequences may ensue from it to all his Majesties Governments upon this Continent.

The illegality of enlisting indented Servants Sir, which is asserted throughout the Address, seems to be there ultimately founded in this Argument that every person must have the same absolute property in what he purchases, that he had in the Purchase Money: many Instances might be cited to shew that this Position is not universally true; & as to the Case of