

now as ever to do every thing in my Power consistent with his Majestys Service to remedy such as have happened or may hereafter happen in the Province of Pensilvania or elsewhere: His Majesty hath ordered his Regiments employed in North America for the Defence of his just Rights and Dominions and protection of his Subjects there to be forthwith augmented to 1000 Men each out of such of the Inhabitants of these Colonies as will inlist into his Service, he hath an undoubted Right to do this: If it can't be done without receiving indented Servants into the Regiments; to forbid the Entertainment of them or order them to be discharged by without being replaced by other effective Men would very probably defeat the Service for which the Regiments were ordered by his Majesty to be augmented; which the Assembly I am perswaded will upon further Consideration think would be a most unwarrantable Proceeding in the Kings General: The only Orders I can justify sending the Officers upon this occasion which I shall take care to do, will be to release such indented Servants as are willing to return to their Masters upon having good effective Men offered in Exchange for them; As to receiving them at first into the Service in cases which shall appear extremely hard to the Officers, they are at liberty to refuse it, and will I doubt not act with discretion: the Intention of my last Orders was only to take off the Restraint I had before laid upon them against receiving any indented Servants which I should not have done if the Regiments had met with that success in their recruiting as might have been expected: It must rest with the Assembly to ease such Masters as may notwithstanding this, sustain any great Hardship by the Loss of one or more of their servants in his Majestys Service, and if in doing that any considerable Burthen should fall upon the whole Community; upon a Representation of it to his Majesty it will doubtless have a proper Consideration given it; And this I can't but hope Sir, the Assembly will upon a cooler Thought of this Affair judge to be a more elligible Method of Proceeding, than to incite the Populace to pursue the violent Measures which the Address seems to point out to them

Lib. J. R.  
& U. S.

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I am Sir

Your Honors most obedient

humble Servant

W. Shirley

Kent County Goal March 21<sup>st</sup> 1756

Honoured Sir.

In consequence of fresh and positive Orders which I received by an Express last Thursday, I have enlisted some