

By you little is to be Expected from Pensilvania by way of Assistance, tho' Conspicuous is their Danger. Their friends here have at all times puff'd off the Advantage that Colony is to its Mother Country, from it's numerous Inhabitants & wealth. But as the Production of that Colony is almost only Grain and Victualling Provisions the Growth & Produce of England, I have Always conceived it rather of Disadvantage to its mother Country, in as much as it is a Rival at Market wth the same productions. It is now likely to prove it self of no Service in a material Instance, from the Government being Exercised by men against the Law of Nature that in Defence of self preservation! proceeding from Tenets of passive obedience and non resistance Especially ag^t an Enemy both in Church & State. I entertain hopes of hearing from you that our Assembly will Determine on better Service for the Publick, then what you Mention. The Government here are Active in their Armament of a Squadron Consisting of the Largest Ships of Burthen, wth Marines on Board, almost compleat, France Powerfull as she is cannot Compare wth Britain's Navy; It is certain at the conclusion of the last War she had few ships of Force left, that were not fallen into English hands, or were not hurt & shattered by them or by themselves worn out. But say People she is reenforced since, Grant it; yet no ways Equal to England's Main Royal Line, or other 4th 5th or 6th Rates of Ships, nor in Number of them. It is urged her Seamen are Registred on half Pay, who by Edict she can soon Collect; the Consequence of her Edict as it Carrys Death not Instantly to come is the Bane of her Trade, as it forces her Seamen to return from Foreign Ports often leaving the Vessell & Traffick not being capable to sail on the sudden Notice of the Edict. It is Complain'd England Issues by Proclamation a Greivous Press, w^{ch} Occasions the Seamen to Secret themselves, what then? 3£: a man Voluntier money paid by Proclamation & 40 Shillings for information of them bring them to the Ships; this Reward has such Effect, that the present large Squadron has been soon Supply'd as to admit Early Protections to the Trading Vessells for men & matters are not arrived under such circumstances as to have given France the Ballance of Trade against us. His Majesty and Councils measures seem fixt wth Resolution not to be foil'd wth the false promises of France, but Vigorous in Support of the Nations wellfare, his Crown & Dignity. May all Success attend his Troops on their arrival in America, whom Joyn'd wth the Forces there, I hope will prove the Down fall to France on that Continent,