

immediate Danger by the French and Indians on the Land Part will be deaf to all the Sollicitations from the Colonies that are most deeply affected with this war for Succour in their Distressed State, in a Short Time the Enemy will in all Probability, depopulate such unhappy deserted Provinces, And then those, who now think themselves in Security, will feel the miseries of this bloody war, and too late repent of the neglect of their own Interest, as well as their Disregard to their Fellow Subjects; and what is greatly to be lamented in our present Case is, that with all the Advantages we have over our Enemies, yet for want of an Union of Councils among ourselves (which renders us contemptible in the Eyes of the Indians) the French, who are weak in themselves, but in the strictest Combination with one another and the Savages that dwell among or near them, are like to bring the Six most Powerful nations of Indians on this Continent (which have hitherto from Time immemorial been firmly Attached to the English Government) over into their Interest

In this situation of our affairs we can have no Prospect of Anything but misery and Desolation, unless the several Governments will join in the firmest League Against the Common Enemy, and carry on the war with Vigour and Resolution, and then we may hope for the blessing of Divine Providence to render our Designs successful I must therefore intreat your Honour to lay this matter before your Assembly, and to do all in Your Power to Spirit them up to Resolutions becoming the Character of Englishmen. I am with great regard S^r

Your Honours most obedient humble Servant

W. Shirley

S^r New Yorke 19th May 1746

I have your Letter of the 7th Instant whereby I discover a Very Sudden and uncommon Resolution of your Assembly at this Time of such imminent Danger from the Enemy. I fed myself at least with hopes of y^r appointing Commissioners for our Mutual Security, as it was a measure thought to be prudent and wise, and probably their Neglect in this Point may occasion to them greater Evils than they are aware of, as the French are at Present very enterprizing and committing great Hostilities and cruel Murthers on our Frontiers, and I am confident one Province alone cannot withstand their Attacks, while our Indians continue neutral; and Indeed I am afraid the French have worked them up to such Thoughts of Ingratitude for which reason no pains should be wanting to remove such an Opinion for his Majesties Service I am in Continual Alarms and Hurry, but always very much

S^r Your obedient humble Servant

p. 587

G. Clinton

S^r New York 26th May 1746

I have been advised by last Post, that the Governments of Connecticut and Rhode Island have appointed Commiss^{rs} to treat with