

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
June 28

fell on the Inhabitants of this Province, and killed two Men and one Woman who have been since found dead; eight other Persons they have taken Prisoners and carried off. The Names of the Persons who were murdered and left, are John Williams, his Wife and Grandson; and with their Bodies was also found that of a French Indian. The Persons carried off, are Richard Williams a Son of John who was murdered, with two Children, one Dawson's Wife, and four Children. Richard Williams's Wife, and two Brothers of the young Man that is killed, have made their Escape. This Accident, I find, has so terrified the distant Inhabitants, that many of them are retiring and forsaking their Plantations. Another Letter from Winchester in Virginia informs me, that a Party of Indians have also attacked the Back Inhabitants of that Province, of whom they have killed eleven, and carried away many Captives.

Apprehending the French would proceed in this Manner, as soon as General Braddock and the Troops under his Command, should have passed the Mountains, and being confirmed in my Opinion by an Intimation in the General's Letter, I issued a Proclamation near a Month since, cautioning the distant and other Inhabitants of this Province, to be on their Guard, and unite for their common Defence and Safety; at the same Time, I sent peremptory Orders and Instructions to the Officers of the Militia of Frederick County, frequently to muster and discipline their several Troops and Companies once a Fortnight at least; and in case of an Alarm, that the Enemy was approaching, or had fallen on the Inhabitants, to march out and act either offensively or defensively, and use all Means to protect and defend the Inhabitants from the Devastations of the French, or their Indians: However, I find neither the Proclamation or Instructions will be effectual, unless the Militia can be assured, that they shall receive Satisfaction and Pay for the Time that they shall be out on Duty. I should think it highly proper for us to have about a Hundred, or at least a Company of Sixty Men, posted, or constantly ranging, for some Time, on the Frontiers, for our Protection: In this I desire your Advice, and that you will enable me to support such a Number.

Gentlemen,

At the General's Request, and that I might receive early Intelligence at this Time from the Camp and the Back Inhabitants, I have engaged several Persons, between this Place and Wills's-Creek, to receive and speedily convey any Letters that shall come to them directed for the General or myself: I doubt not you will be convinced of the Necessity of such a Measure, and provide for the Expence thereof.

Hor.^o Sharpe.

The House adjourns till 2 of the Clock.