

On Reading and Considering his Excellency's Message of the 19th of November, and a Copy of the Earl of Loudoun's Letter, communicated to Mr. Speaker therewith: Ordered, That Col. Tilghman and Mr. Dorsey do prepare and bring in an Address to his Excellency, in Answer to the Matters contained in the said Message and Letter.

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 49  
Dec. 3

Col. Tilghman brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Report, viz.†

By the Committee appointed to Enquire into the Disbursement of the Monies raised by several Acts of Assembly, for maintaining the Forces to Guard the Western Frontier of this Province, and into the State and Condition of Fort Frederick, and into the Conduct and Behaviour of the Officers and Soldiers supported in the Pay of this Province. 3<sup>d</sup> December, 1757. p. 122

Your Committee beg Leave to lay before the Honourable House, the Depositions of such Persons as it was thought might be able to give Light into the Conduct and Behaviour of the Troops, which have been raised and supported for the Quiet and Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants of this Province; from which we are humbly of Opinion it appears, that those Troops have been rather an Oppression than a Defence or Security to those unhappy People; and your Committee are in some Measure confirmed in this Opinion, by the Militia's being ordered out by his Excellency the Governor to Range the Frontier Settlements, and thereby compelled to do that Duty, which those Forces were raised and destined to perform; by which Means double Expence has been brought upon this Province; and the People, at the same Time they pass others, are obliged to be Ranging, to save the Lives of their distressed Neighbours.

Your Committee beg Leave further to observe, that it appears from some of the said Depositions, that large Quantities of spirituous Liquors have been sold and retailed in and about Fort Frederick for private Profit, without paying any Duty; and your Committee are apprehensive it is too much practised elsewhere, thro' the Negligence of the Collectors; by which Means, if not prevented, the Fund intended to be raised by such retailing Liquors, will be considerably lessened, and consequently the Landholders of this Province so much the more burthened by the additional Tax, which, by Law, must fall on them; but submit the Whole to the Consideration of the Honourable House.

Signed p Order, William Wilkins, Clerk.

Which was Read, and the House concurs therewith.

On Reading his Excellency's Message of the 1st of December Instant: Ordered, That Col. Tilghman and Mr. Dorsey do prepare and bring in an Address to his Excellency, in Answer to the said Message.