

L. H. J.
Liber No. 49
Dec. 9

that Gentleman; which I desire may be entered in your Journal, as they will, in my Opinion, most clearly shew, that if any Abuses have been committed by the Officers or Soldiers on our Frontiers, during this last Summer at least, not I, but Mr. Chapline is answerable for them. He was then, as well as now, one of the Lower House of Assembly, elected by the Inhabitants of Frederick County, and resided near the Place where these Abuses are said to have been committed; he had better Opportunities of examining into the Grounds of any Complaints, which the Frontier Inhabitants may have made, than any other Person; and if he had, upon Enquiry, found them just, he ought to have laid them before me, that I might have immediately taken Care to have the Offenders punished, and the Sufferers redressed. You will be pleased to observe, that this Gentleman was twice reminded of his Duty to his Constituents and to Myself, by Two Letters writ by my special Order; the first of these he was pleased to acknowledge the Receipt of by his Letter dated the 18th of May, but his Answer was such as made me conclude, that he was much afraid of being called upon as an Evidence against the Officers, or of having his Name brought in Question; and therefore to free him from all Apprehensions and Restraint, and that I may nevertheless come to the Knowledge of what the Officers may have been accused of, or censured for, in private Conversation, or publicly, I desired Mr. Ridout to write to Captain Chapline a second

p. 160 Time on the same Subject: This Letter Mr. Chapline likewise received, but for Reasons best known to himself, never thought proper to answer; which indeed I am really sorry for, and it will, I doubt not, be by you thought unlucky, since his answering it properly, might possibly have saved the Country a great deal of Money, and you, as well as many others, Abundance of Trouble. But besides what I have already mentioned, I think these Letters will shew, that Captain Joseph Chapline, a Member of your House, had very little room to say any Thing which could confirm you in an Opinion, that I had done wrong in ordering out any of the Militia this last Summer to serve on the Frontiers: As there are many Gentlemen among you that were Members of the late Lower House of Assembly, it is unnecessary to repeat the lamentable Story (whether true or false is not now the Question) that Mr. Chapline's Brother came to Baltimore, and told us when we were there assembled, all the Soldiers that were at that Time in Garrison at Fort Frederick, or employed on this Side the North-Mountain, were not more than about Seventy at most, and several of these were sick in the Hospital. This Consideration determined me to order a Company of the Militia on Duty at that Time; and other Reasons of equal Weight induced me to order out Two small Detachments afterwards; all which I have already recommended it to you to provide for the Payment of, and I hope you have readily complied with my Request.

Hor.^o Sharpe.

9th December, 1757.