

Near the Sum of £6000 has been expended in purchasing the Ground belonging to and constructing Fort Frederick; and tho' we have not any exact Information what Sum may still be wanting to compleat it, (if ever it shall be thought proper to be done) yet we are afraid the Sum requisite for that Purpose, must be considerable, and we are apprehensive that Fort is so large, that in Case of an Attack, it cannot be defended without a Number of Men larger than this Province can support, purely to maintain a Fortification. We have raised and supported on our Frontier, at a vast Expence, a Number of Men considerably more than sufficient, we humbly apprehend, for our Immediate Defence and Security, had they done the Duty to which they were destined by Law; and yet our Militia has been great Part of the Time out on that Service.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 49
Dec. 15

Tho' we did last Spring, in Expectation that his Majesty's Forces would act offensively to the Westward, increase the Number of Troops in the Pay of this Province to Five Hundred, in order that when upon any Emergency his Majesty's Commander in Chief, or Person properly authorized, should judge it expedient to march any Part of the said Five Hundred Men from the Frontier of this Province, he should command them all, except so many as the Governor or Commander in Chief of this Province for the Time being, should judge necessary for the more immediate Defence and Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants thereof, which were to be left at Fort Frederick, and were to Range as by that Act is directed; yet those Troops being chiefly made use of for Garrisoning Fort Cumberland, where they could be of very little if any Service to our Frontier Inhabitants, we did, in our Bill sent to the Upper House this Session, make Provision for supporting only Three Hundred Men (thinking that Number full enough) to be stationed at Fort Frederick, and to act as Rangers for the immediate Defence and Security of our Frontier Inhabitants, hoping their Conduct for the future might be better than it had been, and that they might do the Service destined them by that Bill; and we hope we have Power so to do. We would not willingly act in Opposition to the Powers, with which his Majesty has been graciously pleased to invest the Earl of Loudoun, but would freely contribute every Thing which can reasonably be desired of us, consistent with the Trust reposed in us, for supporting his Lordship in the Exercise of that Power, as well as in the Execution of all his Majesty's Royal Commands, for defeating the ambitious Designs of our common Enemy; and more, we are firmly convinced our Gracious Sovereign does not nor ever will require of us.

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And we hope we may be permitted on this Occasion to observe, that as we have granted Three Thousand Pounds towards Recruiting his Majesty's Royal American Regiment, and have passed a Law for Payment for Servants which have been Enlisted into his Majesty's Service, which must considerably burthen the Public, we have the less