

L. H. J. which possibly you may be of Opinion is in Force; but by your  
 Liber No. 50 Excellency's saying so much, in your several Messages on this Sub-  
 April 17 ject about the Conduct of the late Lower House, we think ourselves  
 laid under a Necessity, in the first Place, to recapitulate the Affair  
 relative to the Marching and Service of the Militia, or rather those  
 who have gone out as Volunteers under that Denomination, at differ-  
 ent Times, since the Commencement of Hostilities with his Majesty's  
 p. 39 Enemies; and to represent, how widely different the Circumstances  
 of our unhappy Frontier People were, when those Volunteers went  
 out (for the March of Part whereof your Excellency applied for  
 and had the Approbation of that House) from what they were  
 under when the Militia of Queen-Anne's and Kent Counties were  
 lately marched.

Some Time about the latter End of August, 1756, a Party of the  
 Enemy, supposed to be about Sixty or Seventy, made an Incursion  
 in several Divisions, fell on the Settlement of Conococheague within  
 this Province, and killed and captivated, as it was reported, near  
 Twenty Persons; on the Second Day after, they made their Retreat.  
 As they were returning, a Prisoner, who understood some French,  
 escaped from them, and informed the People, that the Enemy had  
 determined in a Council of War, to return immediately to Fort  
 Duquesne, and then to make another Incursion into Conococheague  
 Settlement, in about Twenty Days.

About the same Time, Fort Granville in Pennsylvania, we are  
 informed, was taken and destroyed by the Enemy, and the Garrison,  
 which consisted of about Thirty Men, mostly, if not all, killed or  
 captivated.

At the Opening of the Session in September 1756, your Excel-  
 lency was pleased to lay before the then House, a Letter from the  
 Earl of Loudoun, then Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's  
 Forces in North-America, informing you of the "Loss of Oswego,  
 with all it's Stores and Ammunition, and the Train placed there;  
 and the Garrison was made Prisoners of War, and our Naval Power  
 on the Lake destroyed." And his Lordship was pleased, on that  
 Occasion, to shew his Sense of the imminent Danger hanging over  
 this Province, by expressing himself in the following Words: "I  
 must put you on your Guard, against every ill Consequence of such  
 an unhappy Event; and as you may now expect the Weight of the  
 French Indian Power on your Back, I must caution you to put your  
 Frontiers immediately in the best Posture of Defence you are able;  
 as from the Condition and Number of Troops left to me, when I  
 came to my Command, I can scarce hope to do more than to resist  
 the French Power in these Quarters." The House, deeply affected,  
 no Doubt, by the melancholy Situation of their Fellow-Subjects on  
 the Frontiers, were moved to approve a Measure, which they little  
 thought at that Time (tho' they might even then esteem it a Stretch of