

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 50  
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where they were Impressed, when they might have been got at a much cheaper Rate in the Frontier County, and thereby the heavy Charge of Carriage mostly prevented, is imposing an unnecessary and heavy Burthen and Tax upon the People; and with what View it has been done, we are at a Loss to imagine.

We cannot suppose that your Excellency would pursue such Measures, in order to disquiet and distress the good People of any particular Part of this Province: But should a Power of marching the Militia, even when there may be any trifling Incursion (tho' in the present Case there was none) and that from Counties far distant from the Place where it may happen, and carrying their Provisions from those Counties, when they may be had much cheaper on the Frontier, and the Expence of Carriage prevented, be once established by frequent Use, under even plausible Pretences; if ever this Province should be so unfortunate as to be under the Government of a Gentleman of less humane and benevolent Disposition than we are persuaded possesses your Excellency's Breast, we tremble to reflect upon the Consequences! Might it not justly be feared (among many other Evils) that every Man, and every Set of Men, who might in Discharge of the indispensable Duty of their Stations, be obliged to act in such a Manner as might embarrass such a Gentleman in his unjust Views, and their Favourers, Adherents and Dependants, would soon feel the Weight of his Resentment, in being compelled to march to the Frontiers of this Province, there to be stationed during his Pleasure? Not in order to repel a foreign Invasion, but to disgust the People against their Representatives, and thereby procure a Compliance with all his unjust Demands, let them be never so ruinous and destructive to the Liberties and Properties of the People? We are sorry to say there is too much Room to fear it might. And we hope we shall be excused, if, on this Occasion, we trespass upon your Excellency's Patience, while we bring to public View, the Behaviour of some of the good People of this Province, when, from concurrent Accounts, a Probability of a foreign Invasion appeared to them; and that not in This, but in a neighbouring Province; and compare it with their Behaviour in the present Case.

Upon a Report's prevailing some Time about the Month of November, 1755, that a Body of about Twelve Hundred French and Indians had invaded Pennsylvania, and penetrated as far as the Town of Lancaster in that Government; How did the People of this Province behave? Did they shew any Disloyalty or Disaffection to our present happy Establishment? Did they shew any Want of Zeal for the Common Cause, or Unwillingness to assist their Neighbours? Did they wait till all the Influence of Government was made use of to persuade, and all it's Powers were stretched to the utmost, and new ones assumed, to compel them to march? No, on the contrary, they