

made the most speedy Applications they possibly could to the Government, for Leave to march to the Assistance of their Neighbours, believed, by them, to be in Distress; and accordingly in a very few Days at least Eight Hundred Men of Kent and Cæcil, were far advanced towards the Northern Frontier of this Province, on their Way to meet the Enemy; and the Militia of several other Counties had, in the same Time, we are informed, got themselves in Readiness (as well as they could) to march on the same Occasion; when happily, the Report proved to be groundless. The Alacrity, with which many Gentlemen accompanied your Excellency to the Western Frontier, after the unhappy Defeat of his Majesty's Troops under General Braddock, upon only the bare Suggestion of an Invasion, we presume you cannot but be mindful of. But upon the present Occasion, as there was not so much as a Report of even an IncurSION of a single Enemy, among the most distant of the Frontier Settlers, it cannot be wondered at that the Militia of Queen-Anne's and Kent Counties shewed so great an Unwillingness to march out, and expose themselves to the Severities of the most rigorous Season of the Year, to do a Duty they pay others to perform; and which never was, by any Law of this Province, intended to be imposed upon them; till at Length by Threats of Punishment, we presume, they were induced to move; for we cannot learn, that any compulsive Methods have yet been made use of, agreeable to the Mode prescribed by the aforesaid Law, against any who refused to go.

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And we presume it will be as little wondered at, if the Militia of Calvert, or any other County, at this Time ordered to march, should to a Man refuse; as this Province is happily free from any Invasion, or any Report of one, and is preparing, in Conjunction with the neighbouring Colonies, and his Majesty's Regular Forces, to act vigorously and offensively against the Enemy; and there is no small Reason, from a late Message of his Honour Governor Denny, to the Assembly of Pennsylvania, to hope, that most of the Indians to the Westward of us are well inclined, at least to forbear their Incursions.

Upon the Whole, we cannot but entertain the warmest Hopes, that your Excellency, moved by the calamitous Circumstances, which many of his Majesty's faithful and truly loyal Subjects have already been and must inevitably be reduced to, by being marched to the Frontier of this Province, at a Season of the Year the most severe, and there stationed for so long a Time, as must render it impossible for them to give that Attendance to their Crops which is necessary, in order to procure a bare Subsistence to their Families, and to enable them to pay the Public Taxes, necessarily already, and which must be hereafter imposed, for his Majesty's Service, and their own Security: And clearly sensible of the slavish Condition we and our Posterity must be reduced to (for we are persuaded from your