

Step Wrong that is in its Nature Justifiable and Right, or an Act Lawful or Commendable, that is in itself Illegal and Oppressive; however, if those Gentlemen were of Opinion the 11th of October, when you answered my Message, that they had been in an Error, and had by their Address led me to think higher of my Power and Authority over the Militia than I ought, they would have dealt ingenuously in acknowledging their Error, and endeavouring to undeceive me at that Time, but as they did neither, I can hardly think that by saying they thought it "would be wrong for the present" to order a Company of Militia to the Frontiers, they meant, that, in their Opinion, it would be wrong or illegal for me to order any to march for the future, especially when I remember the particular Reason you gave for not advising me to order out a Company at that Time, to wit, that there were then Soldiers enough on the Frontiers to protect the Inhabitants; which indeed was the Case; but though the Soldiers could, and did, effectually protect them, yet it was not in their Power, we find, to make them quiet and easy.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 50
May 5

What Reason you have, or think you have, to presume, that if your House had approved of my sending out any of the Militia on that Occasion, I should not have ordered them from Queen-Anne's, Kent, or Calvert Counties, I know not; I cannot positively say that I should, but, in all probability, if you had desired me to comply with the Request that Captains Delashmut and Chapline had then made, in Behalf of the Frontier Inhabitants, a Company would have been ordered from one of these Counties, lest the Inhabitants of those, from which the Companies had been ordered to march on former Occasions, should have complained of my compelling them to do more Duty than might properly be deemed their Share; and I hope none of you are of Opinion, that a Person's residing on the Eastern Side of the Bay, ought to excuse him from contributing to the Security of those who live on this Side of it.

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Had the Present you speak of been given to the Party of Cherokees, even before Captain Broome received Orders to march, that Circumstances might, perhaps, have had some Weight with such as imagine Indians will be restrained, or do the Duty of Soldiers; but surely you will not pretend to say, that your framing a Bill for their Encouragement, on the 30th of March, was a Reason why I ought to have taken, or to have declined taking, any particular Step on the 9th of that Month, which was the Day the Orders to Captain Broome were issued.

In my Message of the 23d of February, I told you, that as I had good Reason to apprehend, that the Soldiers which had been raised for the more immediate Defence of our Frontier Inhabitants, would disband themselves when they found that the Assembly had broke up, without making any further Provision for their Support, I thought it my indispensable Duty, to order two Companies of Militia