

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 50  
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to the Frontiers, lest the People that were settled there, being left without any Hopes of Assistance or Protection, should desert their Habitations or fall an easy Prey to the Enemy; to this you Answer, that as a Bill was sent up from your House last Session, making Provision for supporting Three Companies of the Soldiers, which had been raised for his Majesty's Service, and the more immediate Defence of our Frontier Inhabitants, it would seem that these Soldiers thought they had sufficient Reason to depend, that the several Branches of the Legislature would soon agree upon some Bill for that Purpose, though they had broke up without doing any Thing at that Time, and that you presume it is this reasonable Dependance which has prevented the Soldiers disbanding themselves, even to this Time: That the Soldiers on our Frontiers, or their Officers at least, hope they shall ere long receive their Arrears of Pay, is very probable; how reasonable such their Dependance is, the Event of this Session will determine. The Declarations you have now made, give me Room to hope, that neither they, nor the Person that hath Victualled them since the Money granted for their Support has been expended, will be disappointed in their Expectations; but it surely must be acknowledged, that Men in this State of Dependance and Uncertainty are in a very different Situation from that of Troops which are actually in Pay, and I doubt not but your Constituents, notwithstanding your Endeavours to represent them as one and the same, will readily perceive the Difference.

The Power of the Governor, and of such Officers as might be Commissioned by the Commander in Chief of this Province, to compel the Militia of one County to march into another, and the Obligation the Militia are under to obey the Commands of such Governor, or their respective Officers, having been already stated, I pass on to your Dissertation on the Word Invasion, which it seems by your Account is something different from an Incursion: I could wish you had before you proceeded to argue so much about this Word, thought proper to define it, and to tell us what, in your Opinion, an Invasion is as well as what it is not.

According to Bailey, an Invasion is an inroad or Descent upon a Country; he does not say by what Number of the Enemy, how long they must Stay, whether they may be all Light-Armed, or whether it is absolutely necessary that they should bring with them any Artillery or heavy Baggage. If you recur to the Laws that were made here at different Times before the Militia Act at present in Question, you will find that they often speak of the Danger the Inhabitants of this Province were exposed to by the frequent Incursions and Invasions of their common Enemy the Indians; and the Records will shew you, that your Ancestors thought themselves invaded when any Party of Indians came into or even approached the Province with a hostile Intent: In this Sense, the Party of the Enemy that did the Mischief