

L. H. J. and a sincere Regard for the People committed to my Care, will
 Liber No. 50 always make me extremely cautious, and avoid every Step that might
 May 5 give them just Cause of Discontent or Uneasiness, or tend to alienate
 p. 175 their Affections from his Lordship's Government; and I cannot
 believe that any Governor in his Senses, would ever think of harrassing
 the Militia of this Province in such a Manner or with such a
 View, tho' he was intirely Independent and not answerable to any
 Superiors for his Conduct.

If the March of those Militia was lawful and necessary, and I hope you are by this Time clearly of Opinion it was both, the Impressing Provisions for them in the Counties whence they marched, was a Measure that could not be well avoided, notwithstanding the Country was thereby put to some extraordinary Expence on Account of the Carriage. That Provisions may be bought for ready Money at a cheaper Rate in Frederick County than on the Eastern Side of the Bay, is perhaps true; but what was that to me who had not ready Money to purchase with. Suppose I should find myself obliged to defend or protect this Country with Militia as long as it shall continue in the Circumstances described in our Laws, Ought the People of Frederick County alone to supply them gratis with Provisions? Or, in other Words, Should the Principal or almost the Whole Burthen of such a Defensive War, fall upon those that are supposed to be the least able to bear it? This, I am satisfied, was far from being the Desire of the late Lower House of Assembly, when they told me in their Address, that they were sensible the Impressing Provisions for the Militia from the Frontier Inhabitants, might greatly distress them, and when they made Provision for the immediate Payment of any Persons that would engage to victual such Militia; if you consider likewise the Difficulty a Press-master must meet with, as well as the Time that must be spent in collecting any considerable Quantity of Provisions, and the Loss any Officers of Militia would be at in a County where they should neither be acquainted with the Pressmasters, nor any other Person; you will, I flatter myself, be reconciled to all the Steps that have been taken, especially when the Gentlemen of Calvert County have told you, that the principal, if not the only, Reason, why the Company of Militia, commanded by Captain Brome, delayed to march so long after he received my Orders, was, that a sufficient Quantity of Provisions could not be collected for them so soon as was expected, and that they were afraid of suffering through Want of Food, after they should arrive at their Place of Destination.

p. 176 I am obliged to you for believing, that I did not order the Militia from Kent, Queen-Anne's and Calvert Counties now, or from Anne-Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Frederick and Prince-George's Counties heretofore, with an Intention to disquiet and distress the good People of any particular Parts of the Province. In this you do me