

L. H. J. County, and Mr. Isaac Baker, besides Five or Six young Men that
 Liber No. 50 seemed fond of going with us from Frederick-Town, and whose
 May 5 expences I bore; not that I suppose it would have been difficult for
 me to get a greater Number, but I thought these were enough;
 besides I was unwilling to take the People from their Harvest, or
 to put the Country to any Expence that could possibly be avoided.

With Regard to the Behaviour of the Militia that were ordered
 out on the present Occasion from Kent and Queen-Anne's Counties,
 I can only repeat what I have been told by their Officers, that no
 sooner had they received my Orders to march, than some who have
 the Honour to sit in your House, exerted their utmost Endeavours to
 dissuade and discourage them from marching; the Officers were first
 practised with, and afterwards the Men. All the Reasons contained
 in the Address, which you have now presented to me, were urged to
 them, together with some which you have not in the Address taken
 Notice of, particularly, that altho' I had a Right or Power to oblige
 the whole Militia of a County to march, yet I had no Authority to
 order the Officers of a Regiment to determine among themselves by
 drawing Lots, which of them should take the Command of, and
 March with, a Company or Detachment. I have been told likewise,
 that many Artifices were used to hinder the Press-masters from
 executing my Warrants; however, both they, and the Officers to
 whom my Orders were sent, knew their Duty, and performed it. And
 the Men, after the Impression that these fallacious Arguments had
 at first made on them was effaced, obeyed their Officers Commands,
 p. 178 excepting a few, whose Names I understand were returned by their
 Captain to a Justice of the Peace, according to the Directions of the
 Act of Assembly: Whether they have been all as yet carried before
 him, and whether he admitted the Excuses of such as were, or to
 what it is owing that none of them were bound over to the last Pro-
 vincial Court, I have not been able to learn; but as the Clerk of the
 Council was ordered several Days ago to write to Mr. Ringgold the
 Justice, I expect that that Gentleman will soon send us a particular
 Account of the Steps he has taken with respect to this Affair; and if
 it shall appear that he hath been deficient in Point of Duty, as it is
 supposed by some that he has, you may depend that proper Notice
 shall be taken of his Offence or Neglect.

After what you have often said concerning the Ravages that have
 been Committed since the French and their Indian Allies first made
 a Descent on this and the two Neighbouring Provinces, I am sur-
 prized, Gentlemen, to hear you speak of them as trifling Incursions,
 and that you should take Occasion from a Message which Governor
 Denny sent in March last to the Assembly of Pennsylvania, to pro-
 propagate an Opinion that we have nothing more to fear from the
 Indians to the Westward, when we have received Accounts of their
 having since that Time attacked the Frontier Inhabitants of Pennsyl-