

essential to their own Protection, and yet this Measure is big with all those Consequences, both from it's own Nature, and still more so from the Season in which it is taken, the Account of it arriving to me late on the 2d of November, in the Back Country of the Province of New-York, by which Measures they not only refuse their Aid to the Common Cause, and desert the Interest and Security of their own Province, but by the Season they have this Resolution in, put it out of the Power of the King's Servants to remedy the End that the Execution of such a Measure cannot miss to have. From this Light of Things, which is the true one, I cannot doubt but your Assembly will immediately take such Resolutions as shall enable you to provide effectually for the Security of that important Post at Fort Cumberland, so as to prevent it's being abandoned, and put into the Enemy's Possession, which would be the Effect of such a Resolution. I must further remind you of the uninterrupted Orders that have been communicated to all the Governments in North-America, from his Majesty's Secretaries of State, from the Year 1754 to this Time, to be aiding and assisting to his Commander in Chief in North-America, in supplying Troops, &c. and in Consequence of his Majesty's Commands to me of applying to the different Provinces for such Aid as I see necessary for the Common Cause, I do demand from the Province of Maryland, that the 500 Men, furnished for the Common Cause, and employed by me this last Summer in the Defence of their Garrisons on their Frontiers, be continued in the Service this Winter, as absolutely necessary for the Defence of their own Province, and the Defence of his Majesty's Dominions. As to their disposing of the Troops in the Winter, I have the King's Commission to command all Men that are or shall be in Arms in North-America, I am on the Spot, and whilst the King does me the Honour to continue that Commission to me, I will execute it, and if any Officer or Soldier presumes to disobey my Orders, I will treat him as the Law directs. If my Business can possibly permit me, I will come immediately to Annapolis, where I do not doubt but you and I will be able to set Things in such a Light, as will be perfectly satisfactory to the Gentlemen of your Assembly, and to every other Man that has the Safety and Prosperity of Maryland, at Heart, and indeed of every Man that has at Heart the Prosperity and Safety of his Majesty's Subjects and Dominions in North-America. As the Business I am engaged in may put it out of my Power to make this Journey so soon as I could wish, I must beg that you will take every Measure to bring your Assembly to a right Understanding of this so essential a Point, both for themselves and his Majesty's Dominions in North-America, and that you will, from Time to Time, acquaint me by Express of what Resolutions are taken in this Affair."

L. H. J.
Liber No. 52
April 23

This Letter of his Lordship's I communicated to the Lower House the 18th of November, but they paid so little Regard to it, that in