

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

now with them; and the Troops from North-Carolina were in Readiness to go, but were prevented by Letters from the Commanding Officer there, on the Arrival of a Regiment of 1000 Men from Europe, so that they did not then stand in Need of them; there is an Instance in Point in the very next Province, who were likewise to have made up their Quota of Troops to 400 Men, if they were found Necessary, for that Service in South-Carolina. But further to illustrate this Point, let them reflect, that the Provincial Troops in the more Northern Provinces, that is, those of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, and the Jerseys, have for 3 Years last past been serving in the Province of New-York: There was an Attempt about 18 Months ago to have restrained Part of those Troops within certain Bounds, to serve particular Purposes, although they never thought of carrying that Point so far as to restrain them within their own Province, and the Moment that Intention appeared, the Ministry immediately interposed, and no such Measures have been attempted since. Although the Prerogative is undisputed every where, I have thought it necessary to mention these few Instances in their Neighbourhood, to shew them the Singularity both of their Opinion and Proceedings; the Consequence of which I foresaw, and mentioned in a former Letter, and warned them of in the Letter I had the Honour to write you of the Effects such a Measure would have, not only to throw open the Frontiers of their own Province, but to open a Door to the Enemy in the very Heart of his Majesty's Dominions in North-America: As this is the fair State of the Affair, I cannot Doubt that those Gentlemen, on considering coolly on the Affair, will, from their Care for the Preservation of the Lives and Properties of their Fellow-Subjects, from their Zeal for the Common Cause of all North-America, and their Duty to the King, propose such an Act as is not only agreeable to the Instructions, but agreeable to our happy Constitution of Government in the British Dominions, without attempting to make Alterations in it, at a Time when the Enemy are taking every Advantage that can be drawn from any little Jars that may happen in any of the Provinces of his Majesty's extensive Dominions on this Continent, which are therefore Things every Man, who is a real Lover of his Country, will to the utmost avoid. As to the Dispute of what Province Fort Cumberland belongs to, 'tis a Thing I never heard disputed, but by all Men I have met with, was deemed to be in Maryland; but be that as it will, 'tis of no Consequence, nor has it any Thing to do in this Affair, nor had I the least Intention of loading Maryland, or easing any other Province, by sending the Provincial Troops of Maryland to it; and in my Orders at that Time, I shewed the greatest Attention to Maryland, in employing the Whole of the Troops raised by them in covering their Frontiers, and securing the Inlets into their Country, when I actually

p. 74