

former, or present Regiment to enlist such Servants, always disapproved of the Practice of ill-treatment as necessary in officers, and since being invested with my present Command have published in all as long as the Circumstances of his Majesty's Service would admit

But this is not now the Case, His Majesty's Orders to augment his Regiments to 1000 Men each are positive; The execution of them before the opening his Years Campaign is necessary for the Preservation of his just Rights and Dominions upon this Continent against the Inroads and Invasions of the Enemy, and to secure his Subjects from the farther Devastations, which it must otherwise be expected they will soon make within these Colonies: The recruiting Officers have represented to me that it will be impracticable to comply with their Regiments in full the Service if I continue my former Restraint upon them: The Season is now far advanced and the Preparations of the Enemy to distress his Majesty's Colonies in every Part are pushing on very fast; of which the late Ravages committed at their Indignation within the Borders of Pennsylvania by Indians some of which were before at Peace with that Government, and others in Friendship with it should be a most alarming Proof to the Assembly.

The Assembly will not infer that because I judged it expedient to forego his Majesty's Right to the Service of indentured Servants in favour of their Masters whilst I apprehended such an Indulgence would not disappoint the raising a sufficient Force for repelling the Enemy from his Service, and the protection of his Subjects in North America it can therefore be my Judgment that it is either consistent with my Duty to the King or the safety of his Subjects within these Colonies, to continue this Indulgence at a time when the great Interests of both are so apparently at Stake, and such ruinous Consequences may ensue from it shall his Majesty's Government upon this Continent.

The ill-treatment of indentured Servants, Sir, which is asserted throughout the Address, seems to be there ultimately founded in this Argument that every Person must have the same absolute Property in what he purchases, that he had in the Purchase Money: many Instances might be cited to show that this Position is not universally true; and in the Case of indentured Servants, the supposition that the King is precluded by the Contracts between them and their Masters from the Right he before had to their Service for the Defence of his Dominions is not founded in the nature of Government in general, or contrary to the Practice of it in the English Constitution:

A Discussion of these Points at large would lead into too wide a Field for the Compass of this Letter, it may suffice to show what the Practice upon them is in these Colonies, and in doing this I shall confine myself to that within the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, the Constitution of which as it is a Charter Government, will I suppose be admitted to be decisive in this Case.