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16th of July last at which time I was induced or rather obliged to
meet them by the repeated solicitations of Gov^r Denardie & by
a piece of Intelligence that was just before brought; that a Body
of 900 French & Indians had on the 3rd of July attacked the Virginia
Forces amounting to about 1500 Men encamped on the Back-part
of that Province under the Command of Col^l Washington & after
having killed & wounded 100 of the English obliged him to surrender
on very hard terms. At the News of this Stroke many of our Back-
Inhabitants as well as those in Virginia & Pennsylvania were so
much alarmed as to talk of deserting their Habitations. This had
some weight with our Assembly & they voted £6000 Curr: for
the Support of the Virginians in their Enterprize; The Bill
for raising the Money which I have inclosed a Copy of was
lying on before the Upper House when I received this Lords
Instructions, which would have occasioned my Depart to the
Bill; had not the earnest Request of the Council & the Consider-
ation of what fatal Consequences our refusing any longer to aid
the Virginians must have been of to all the neighbouring Colonies
as well as Virginia who would not be able without our Assistance
to reinforce their Troops time enough for them to look the Enemy
again in the face before Winter. That the Lower House would
suffer no Expunction in the Bill was manifest from their
late Conduct, & so that Point with respect to the Ordinary
Licences had been conceded by the Governor & Council heretofore
in times of less imminent Danger than the present there was