

their Force at the Ohio is considerably increased, that 200 of the Ottawa  
 & Carriaga Indians who are entirely at the Devotion of the French were  
 slain on their way thither, so that the Strength of the Enemy on that River  
 cannot by any Accounts be supposed to be less than 1000 at this time.  
 A few Days since was forwarded to me from Boston where a Man of War  
 is arrived from England, a Letter from Sr Tho: Robinson dated at  
 Whitehall 26 of Oct<sup>r</sup> at which time my Letter says one to the same  
 purport was dispatched from the Secretary of State his Office to every  
 Governour on the Continent. It is thereby signified to me that His Majesty  
 for the Defence of his just Rights & Dominions in those parts has been  
 pleased to order over to Virginia two Regiments of Foot consisting of  
 500 Men each besides Commissioned & Non-Commissioned Officers to be  
 augmented by 100 to 700 Men each; & likewise to send Orders to Governour  
 Shirley & Sr Wm Pepperel Colonels to raise two Regiments of 1000 Men  
 each; whereas says the Letter there will be wanting a considerable Number  
 of Men to make up the designed Compliments of the said four Regiments  
 His Majesty's pleasure that you should be taking the previous Steps  
 towards contributing as far as you can to have about 2000 Men in readiness  
 to be enlisted, if it is his Majesty's Intention that a Gent. Officer of Rank  
 & Capacity to be appointed to command in Chief all the Kings Forces  
 in North-America a Deputy Quarter Master General & a Commissary of  
 the Musters shall as soon as conveniently may be in Order to prepare  
 every thing for the Arrival of the Forces above mentioned from Europe  
 for the raising of the others in America; the Letter then proceeds in general  
 terms to excite us to raise such Supplies as the present Danger requires  
 particularly with regard to the following points that we should carefully  
 provide a sufficient Quantity of fresh Victuals at the Expence of this Govt  
 to be ready for the use of these Troops at their Arrival & to provide  
 Carriages for carrying the Baggage of such Forces as shall arrive or be  
 raised within this Governmt; & with regard to such other Articles as are of  
 a more general Concern Sr Tho: Robinson's Letter acquaints us that it  
 is the Kings pleasure that the same should be supplied by a Common  
 Fund to be established for the Benefit of all the Colonies collectively  
 in North-America; for which purpose you will use your utmost Endeavours