

Endeavours says he to induce the Assembly of your Province to raise, forthwith as large a Sum as can be afforded as their Contribution to the Common Fund to be employed proportionally for the general Service of America particularly for paying the Charge of Levying the Troops & make up the Complements of the Regiments above mentioned until such time as a Plan of a general Union of his Majesty's Northern Colonies for their common Defense can be perfected. This is the Substance of the Secretary of State his Letter; on my Receipt of which I desired the Advice of your Lords Council whether to issue Proclamation for the Assembly to meet before the Day appointed to consider of granting requisite Supplies & paying Obedience to the Royal pleasure, or whether it would be more proper for me to proceed as I had intended to the Camp where my presence seems quite necessary to have the American Troops a little disciplined & to see Provisions laid in & proper Preparations made for the Reception of those Regiments from England, as well as those Companies that are raising in Virginia & this Province. At present there are at the Camp the 3 Independent Companies & the Maryland Company completed to 110. the Virginians who are at present dispersed & quartered in several parts of that Province, have Orders to begin their March, either in Divisions to Morrow, their Number Gov. Dinwiddie informs me when they come to join will be about 500, which I am to be proposed to increase to 700 or 800 but I know not whether this last Letter from home will not make him decline it as there are thereby no Directions given how they are to be formed; or on what footing or Establishment they are to be raised. This Doubt & ignorance makes us wait with impatience the Arrival of those Regiments & farther & particular Instructions from his Majesty. (as to levying any Number of Men) I conceive we shall not find it difficult especially as the Assemblies of this Province & Virginia have passed a Sort of Paper Act, but the Difficulty will be to get Money from the Assemblies to support them after they are raised; indeed this I look upon as impracticable or not to be expected without the Legislature of Great Britain shall make a Law to be binding on all these several Colonies & oblige them to raise such a Fund, as may be thought expedient for the Support of their own Troops. This