

but he expresses no very sanguine hopes of finding them better disposed at this time to comply with his Requisitions by contributing Supplies for the Uses for which the General, at this time solicits them. I hear the Virginians have voted £6000 for those purposes but cannot as yet learn by what Scheme or means the Sum is to be raised. tho' it is reported that they will think of some kind of Lottery, Money being exceedingly scarce in that Govern^t. By the Advice of your Lords Council I have called our Assembly again the 23rd Inst. but as I have already hinted, I am not without fears that instead of granting Supplies they will scarcely refrain from muttering against the Proceedings of the Troops under General Braddock, who have not scrupled to carry off a good many Servants with them from this Province as well as Carriages & Horses. I shall be under a Necessity of recommending to the Assembly to provide for the Relief of such of the Inhabitants as have suffered thereby but as no more than two or three Counties thro' which the Troops marched have been at all affected, or injured. I doubt the Assembly will not be influenced by the Representations or Petitions of a few to indemnify & give them Redress. I have thought proper to issue a Proclamation cautioning the Back Inhabitants to be on their Guard & prepared to defend themselves & each other against the Hostilities they are threatened with & have also sent peremptory Orders to the Officers of the Militia to Muster & Discipline the Men under their Command, & be in Readiness to serve his Majesty & secure their own Properties from the destroying hands of the French & their Savage Allies, but alas for want of a Militia Act similar to those of New York, or the Northern Govern^{ts}. Little is to be expected from such Defenders or Protectors. I am much afraid it will exceed both Govern^{or} Dinwiddie's & my Abilities to prevail on any of them to stir toward Fort Duquesne or even Cumberland tho' the Assembly should give us Provisions & Horses to Escort thither. I am advised that 600 Men march'd from