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have been now met five weeks without doing any thing, it is said
the Bill will be brought into the House the Beginning of next
week but as I hear they have therein inserted a Clause subjecting
your Sdps. Warrants to the Payment of a Land Tax, which is one
of the Funds, I do not entertain very sanguine hopes of their doing
the Business for which I convened them in such a manner as Common
Sense should dictate, & their Constituents desire. Governor Morris
informs me that this Assembly sat a Month without coming to any
Determination or Resolution, & then adjourned themselves for a Fort-
night; he does not seem to expect any thing from them at their Me-
eting on such Adjournment; & Governor Dinwiddie's Expectations from
his Assembly (which is also met) appear I think to be less warm than
usual. General Shirley has been pleased since the Assembly
met to send me a Commission & Instructions to take the Com-
mand of all the Troops that may be raised in these Southern
Colonies for an Expedition to the Westward, I have thanked the
General for his intended Favour, but as Affairs are at present
situated I have forbid him to expect my doing any thing, &
intimated to him that while Men, Money, Arms, Ammunition,
the smallest Train, Provisions & Credit are wanting his Commis-
sion will not much contribute to the Reduction of the French Forts
or the Security of our own Frontiers: in truth my Lord the Condi-
tion of these Colonies is deplorable; The Enemy see us inactive &
naturally hold us in Contempt; the Success the Indians have met
with encourages them to pursue their Victory & the timorous Inha-
bitants desert their Plantations & fly from Danger as it approaches
those that are more remote from it either pity the Frontier Inha-
bitants or condemn their Cowardice but not a Man will move to
their Assistance or to oppose the Enemy. The Eastern Colonies have