

our People flee also & tho' the Garrison at Fort Frederick & the Detachments of Militia on our Western Frontiers amount to 400 Men, yet the fine Settlement on Conegocheigh is quite deserted & few Inhabitants now remain beyond the South Mountain. What an Opinion will this give You of our hardy & resolute Germans, Experience teaches Us that they are possessed with much the same Spirit as the Natives & that Bravery is by no means their distinguishing Characteristic. It has been rumored that the Provincials will be scarcely able to proceed to Crown Point this Season, they have suffered it seems a good deal from Sickness & do not themselves entertain such sanguine hopes of Success as they were used to do. You may observe in the Gazette that there is room to hope Commodore Holmes has taken some French Men of War off of Louisburg but We do not always put entire Confidence in New England Fisher Men. Since I received His Majesty's Declaration of War I have been applied to for Letters of Marque, which it is usual for Governors as Vice Admirals to issue in these Colonies but You will be pleased to remember & to remind His L^{ty} that I have no Commission to act as Vice Admiral in this Province tho' His L^{ty} has appointed me Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty. I have myself undertaken to make out & with the Judges of the Land Office to examine & authenticate a Grant Roll for this County which I hoped to have completed very shortly but this extraordinary Session of Assembly will occasion some Delay as I shall find but little time for such Business while they are sitting. Inclosed You will see a Packett directed for Mr John Hinde which is left open that You may if You will give Yourself the Trouble observe what Mr Tash has desired to impose on me upon the Point You gave him concerning the Lands in Baltimore County I am thoroughly convinced by his Conversation in London, His