

Distemper when the Assembly should have met. The Burgesses
for the most part declined giving their Attendance wherefore after
proroguing the House from Day to Day till the 20th I then com-
plied with the Request of the Speaker & those few who were
in Town & by the Advice of Your Ldps Council farther pro-
rogued them to the 10th of next Month when we may perhaps be
pretty free from the Disease which is very much dreaded by the
People in this Country (principally on Account of their Estates
consisting in Slaves & Servants) & in the mean time the Gent^l
who live in & around the Towns wherein the Troops are
quartered furnish them with Houses, Beds, Fire wood &c by
Subscription in hopes of being reimbursed by the Assembly, & the
Soldiers are victualed by Persons whom the Victualing Contractors
have engaged for that Purpose. A few Days ago I received a
Letter from the Earl of Loudoun (who is now at Boston) wherein
he is pleased to tell me that he expects to see Governor Din-
widdie & myself at Phila. the 1st of next. I know not what His Ldps
proposes by desiring our Attendance but I presume Governor
Dinwiddie will call on me some Day next week & I shall then
proceed to obey His Ldps Commands. It is more than probable
that I shall be able from Phila. to advise Your Ldps of the Result
of our Meeting, but if no Opportunity of Dispatching a Lett^r
thence should offer, I shall transmit Letters by a Vessel of
Col: Loyds which with one from this Place is to sail the End
of this Month or the Beginning of next; I shall charge the
Captains of both these Vessels with some Maryland Partridges