

our distant & scattered Inhabitants, such Indians as may venture
to declare in our favour be prevented, & a free Trade with the
Natives which we are now threatened to be entirely deprived of
ensured to us unless the Enemy be compelled to relinquish at once
the several Fortresses that they have built on the Lakes & Rivers
behind us & we take possession of & garrison them ourselves. Now
as I look on this as too great a Design to be executed or ever
attempted with such Assistance & Supplies only as the several
Colonies will be prevailed on to advance, without they be supported
by such a Body of Troops from home as I dare not presume
to hope for, the Direction of I forbear saying any more on
such a Scheme, but confine my hopes, with a Resolution to
endeavour to shew myself not entirely unworthy of the Charge
with which His Majesty has been pleased already to entrust
me & to remove if possible the Fears of Danger from His
Majestys Subjects settled in this part of the Continent with
which they are at present not a little affected, tho I must con-
fess I am not without apprehensions that if the Enemy shall
find us superior to them here, they will bend their Force against
His Majesty's Dominions on Ontario Lake, the Mohocky & Hudsons
River which are I am afraid but too open & exposed & may
become too easy a Conquest unless the Six Indian Nations
will heartily join the Inhabitants of New York & defend the
Frontiers of that Province at least till we are able to send
them our Aid & Assistance. That I have in the preceding
part of this Letter mentioned some Places without giving an
accurate Description of their Situation & Distance, you will
be pleased to attribute to my having hitherto wanted the Oppor-