

Feb. 2. 1756. General Shirley

Sir within three or four Days I have received several Letters from the Magistrates in different Parts of this Province informing me that Those of His Majestys Officers under your Command who have been ordered hither to recruit have lately received your positive Instructions to enlist without Exception or Distinction all Apprentices & Servants that they can persuade to enter into the Service, that the Inhabitants having a great part of their Property vested in Servants unanimously oppose the Execution of such Instructions, that from such Opposition Violences have been committed, that unless their Cause of Complaint be speedily removed an Insurrection of the People is likely to ensue. The Magistrates as well as myself have <sup>rather</sup> endeavoured to prevent Mischief but as the Officers are determined to prevent Mischief ~~will~~ unless they are countermanded I think it my Duty to acquaint you <sup>thoroughly</sup> with this Affair, to intimate to you my fears, that I shall find <sup>myself</sup> under a Necessity, (if a Stop be not put to such Proceedings) of making a Representation here on this Subject. ~~which~~ I cannot promise that the People will be much longer restrained from expressing their Resentment by Actions: I think it my Duty to make this Representation to your Excellency, I hope you will not be averse to countermanding such Orders, otherwise I shall find myself under a Necessity of assisting the Powers with which I am invested to preserve the Peace of the Province.