

Life be able to win the affections of a strange & new People. The Sentiments of the
Inhabitants of N England & the Islanders may not possibly be quite similar & tho he might
during many Years Residence among them have well studied the former yet perhaps he will
find some Difficulty in pleasing or conforming to the Customs of the latter. I am afraid the
Gentl^y mentioned as his Successor will have a difficult Task to manage that People who
are not looked on to be the most tractable & can make their Governor a good deal dependent
I think Mr Melchior is said to have lost Money in their Service & I do not find that the
General has amassed any great fortune. We imagined Mr Pownall was to succeed Mr Melchior
who must certainly very shortly leave the Service destitute of a Governor but I presume Mr
Pownall will be glad to exchange his Expectations of that for an Appointment to the other
Province. I do so far by way of Answer; I now proceed to give You a brief Account of
the present Posture of our Affairs in America. For the Plan of Operations concerted at N York
I refer You to Governor Dinwiddie's last Speech to his Assembly in which however
You will see he enjoins Secrecy. The Troops that are raising in the Colonies Southwest
of the Service will make a Body of 8000 or 9000 Men & I hope they will not let so much of
the Summer elapse as they did last Year before they begin their March toward Crown Point
All the Regulars & the Jersey Provincials commanded by Col^l Scuyler are proceeding to
Oswego, which Place I hope is safe, but it has been reported & believed that the Enemy
were preparing to attack it before the Garrison could be reinforced or receive fresh Supplies
of Provision of which it is said they were a few Weeks ago in great want. The Gen^l
was pleased since our Assembly met to send me a Commission & Instructions to take the
Command of all the Forces that should be raised in these Southern Colonies for an
Expedition to the Westward, I thanked him for his good Intentions & assured him that if
the Colonies would enable me I should readily undertake the Service; but as I have not
learned that the Pensilvanians or Virginians have yet come to any Resolution thereon & as
our frugal Gent^l have directed in the Bill they are framing that no more than 200 Men
shall be raised & supported by this Province unless the Neighbouring Colonies send a Num
ber of Troops to act in conjunction with us I give over all thoughts of marching against
Fort Du Quesne this Summer which I believe is too strong for me to reduce by Order
of this Excellency's Commission without either Men, Artillery, Money, or Provisions. By
a late Return from the Lieut^l Colonel of the Virg^a Regiment I find they do not
yet muster 500 Men about 200 of whom are at Fort Cumberland to guard & defend the
Majesty's Stores there; & the Rest are posted at different Places on the Frontiers of that
Dominion. About a Fortnight ago a Capt of the Virg^a Regiment with a Detach
ment of 60 Men fell in with a Party of Indians on this Side the Fort & were informed