

any Provision, for their Support they were, of course, disbanded, & no longer sub-
ject to the Command, of any Military Officer whatever; I thought it my
Duty as soon as I was advised thereof, to order two Companies of Militia to
the Frontiers that in case such Discourses should have the Effect that was
intended they might be on the Spot ready to garrison Fort Frederick, or to be
otherwise disposed of as the Officer commanding there should think proper; but
no sooner was it known that such Orders were issued, than every method was tak-
en by some of the Members of the Lower House to dissuade & discourage these
Companies from marching. Having failed, however in this Attempt as well as
in that upon the Soldiers, they are, I am told, about to draw up a Remonstrance
against the Orders that were given to the Captains of the two Companies above-
mentioned with a view of biasing the Juries that might be impanelled when
a few of the Militia that were refractory & refused to march, are tried at our
next Provincial Court for Disobeying Orders. The principal Argument
on which they rely is that as the Militia are not by our Law obliged to
march unless in time of actual Invasion they cannot be compelled to garrison
a Fort or to serve in Arms if there is not an Apparent ~~Receiving~~ Enemy
within the Limits of the Province; as to the Ravages that have been committed
on our Frontiers for these three Years they cannot it seems be properly
termed Invasions but only Incursions. Such My Lord being the Reasoning
of the Majority in our Lower House of Assembly I leave Your Ld^{ty} to judge
of their present Disposition, for my own part I despair of seeing any Good
proceed from their Councils, & believe I shall find myself under a Necessity
of proroguing them before I can receive Your Lordship's farther Commands;
In that Case I will immediately give Orders for 300 of our best Men to
be formed into three Companies & the Rest to be discharged; to prevent De-
fections I must at the same time give the Captains Leave to draw on me for
some of the Pay that shall be due to their respective Companies which will
amount to a considerable Sum none having been issued to them by this Province
Agents since the 5th of Oct. I hope therefore Your Ld^{ty} will be so kind as to send me
some farther Instructions concerning this Matter as soon as possible.