

Footing those that marched hence & served on the late Expedition ag<sup>t</sup>  
Fort Du Quesne continued & how they have been kept together since  
the 8<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 1757 when they received the last of the Money which had  
been some time before granted for their Support. Within the last Year  
I met the Assembly of this Province at four several times & used my  
utmost Endeavours to induce them to comply with the Requisitions  
of His Majesty's Generals but I am sorry to say that all my Endeavours  
proved fruitless & that I have little reason to hope the Assembly  
will be now prevailed on to act a better part. I shall however convene  
them again as soon as all those of them that are well disposed can  
conveniently come together by which time it is not I think impro-  
bable that I shall be able to communicate to them some Instructions  
or a Letter from His Majesty's Ministers which together with Your  
Excellency's might have some Weight & in some Measure perhaps influ-  
ence their Conduct. As the Officers of the four Maryland Companies  
found it would be impracticable to keep their Men any longer toge-  
ther without pay & were of Opinion that if they suffered them to desert  
or disband themselves it would be impossible to collect them again in  
Case the Assembly should in the Spring agree to pay off all their  
Arrears & provide for their farther Support the Officers thought it ad-  
visable to give Furloughs for two Months or untill they shall by an  
Advertisement in the Gazette be ordered to repair to a Place of Rendez-  
vous when they are persuaded their Men will join them & that if  
the Assembly raises the necessary Supplies they shall in a very short  
time be able to compleat their respective Companies. With regard  
to what Your Excellency is pleased to recommend to me relative to  
any Officers that are or may be sent to this Province on the Acqui-  
sition Service I beg leave to assure You that I shall countermand