

April 6th 1748
Gentlemen of the General Assembly.

N^o 103. From the Letters received from Worcester and
Somerset Counties, which I have laid before you and the Conversations I have
had with People from thence as well as from the Insurrections some
since, I am apprehensive that unless decisive Measures are speedily taken
the Balance in Somerset County, will be in Favor of our Enemies & I judge
If that should be the Case and our Friends are left under the Apprehension
of suffering instantly all the Qualities which brutal Rage can inflict and
the Enemies of their Country fear nothing but a slow Prosecution for the
most atrocious Villanies, entertaining at the same Time the Hope that
their Guilt may be shielded by the Forms incident to the Proceedings
of Courts, Mens Minds will be influenced by the immediate Evil and
the consequent Influence will probably extend much to the Prejudice
of the State. I cannot therefore but entreat your Advice & Assistance
in a Matter which appears to me of so great Magnitude and submit
to your Consideration whether it will not be well, immediately to
order one hundred or one hundred and fifty of the Militia from some
of the other Counties, into Somerset to do Duty there 'til a sufficient
Regular Force can be raised for that Service and to proclaim
Martial Law in Somerset County and erect a Court Martial competent
to the Trial of Spies, Piracies and such of our own People as may
be taken in Arms, with a Power of ordering the Execution of
the guilty without waiting for the Assent of any other Authority.
The General Assembly.

In Council 6th April 1748.

Sir

104. We are sorry for the Loss the Gentlemen of your County have sustained
by their Negroes going away, but we cannot conceive the Enemy would restore
them, unless their Masters make Concessions which no American ought to do.
It is very unlikely that if a Man avowed his Principles to support the Cause
of America, that he would be so far favoured as to have his Negroes or
any other Property returned. We have had many Applications similar
to the present, but our Impression of the Impropriety of permitting
our People to go to the Enemy to solicit Favours, is so strong that we
have rejected every one and hope and expect, some Method will be
fallen on to indemnify them, without their being obliged to cringe
to our Enemies. The Assembly have not yet formed any Resolutions for
your Defence, we expect they soon will and that the Measures adopted will be
effectual. The Gentlemen of your County promise to move for a Bill to cure
Doubts, as to the Mode of forcing the Payment of the Finances of the Militia.
P.S. If you should have an Opportunity of purchasing
a Quantity of Linen for Soldiers Shirts or Cambricks or
course Shirting for Overalls & Coats on pretty good Terms, we shall be glad to do for
Deal is wanted.

Col. George Doughty