

of them all, rather than see (though far remote from the horrid Scene) the Blood of Fellow Christians and Fellow Subjects streaming, their Chastity defiled, their Youth captivated, their Property snatched away and carried over to the Enemy, or destroyed before their Eyes, at the Will and Pleasure of a handful of barbarous Infidels.

But we cannot forbear to say, that unhappy is the Condition of that People, whose Frame of Government has such Clogs thrown into the Wheels of it, as will not permit such Motions as are absolutely necessary for their own Defence and Security, and that of their Fellow Subjects, and for demonstrating their Loyalty and Affection for the Best of Kings, but at the Expence of their Rights and Privileges.

And now, that you may no longer deal in generals, we shall take particular Notice of the several Objections you have made against our two above mentioned Bills: We are informed, that the most commodious Part of the Frontier, for constructing a Fort and Block-Houses for the Defence thereof, is on or near the *North-Mountain*, and not beyond it, as mentioned in our second, and now in this Bill. We have in this, as we did in our second Bill, rated the Pay of a Commissary of Stores. A Pay-Master of the Troops, which may be raised for the intended Expedition, we conceive, may be appointed by the Commander in Chief, and his Salary paid out of the general Stock, which may be contributed by the several Governments towards that Expedition.

We have in this, as we did in our second Bill, lengthened the Time for keeping up the Troops, from the 25th of *December* till the 10th of *February* next; before which Time undoubtedly an Assembly will be called, who will Judge of the Expediency of keeping them up longer; and hope your Honours will not further press a Measure, so unconstitutional, as your Proposal of keeping them up at the Will and Pleasure of the Governor or Commander in Chief of those Forces; if you should, we never will consent to it.

We have regulated in this Bill the Pay of the Officers, nearly to what they have in the neighbouring Colonies; and this we did also in the second. The Governor or Commander in Chief of any Expedition that may be undertaken, we apprehend, will have Power to form his Companies as he pleases. Those of the Fort and Block-Houses, we cannot consent to alter, as the multiplying Commanding Officers will too much increase the Expence.

A Fort-Adjutant and Gunner at the Fort we do not conceive necessary; and the Arms, when out of Repair, may be exchanged and repaired at much less Expence than would accrue from keeping a Gun-Smith in constant Pay, at 20 *per* Day, as you propose.

The Surgeon's Pay we have rated at 6 *s. per* Day, and Medicines found him, which will, we hope, be thought a handsome Reward for his Service, and so it was in our second Bill. We did in our second Bill, and we have in this, made sufficient Provision against Mutiny and Desertion, and the Entertainment of Debtors. To the Election of Collectors of the Duty on Wine and Spirituous Liquors, by the several Vestrymen and Church-Wardens, we had good Reason to hope for your Concurrence, as being a Method readily agreed to in our Inspection-Law; however, as you have twice refused it, we have now appointed, for Collection, the several Sheriffs, who, as they are Gentlemen already appointed by the Government to such considerable Trust, we conceive, will not be objected to by your Honours; and they are to give Bond in 400 *l.* as you propose; and this we do, urged by the Considerations abovementioned; nevertheless, insisting on our undoubted Right to the Nomination of Commissioners or Collectors of every new Tax or Duty, which may be imposed upon the People for any Purpose whatever.

We cannot imagine you will refuse to pass a Bill of the Importance this is of, purely because the Wealthy, Opulent, and Luxurious, are to pay a Duty on some of the Liquors they will consume, as well as the Poor, the Laborious, and the Indigent Part of the Community, on the most they will expend for the Term of Five Years: Nor do we see the dangerous Tendency of such a Tax, as there is not any Power given to the Collectors of it to enter the House of private Consumers on any Pretence; but it depends upon their Integrity to account for the Tax without Molestation, or pay a Sum certain, half yearly, in Lieu thereof; one or the other of which, we presume, every Well-Wisher to his Country will chearfully do.

We do not find any Law in Force against bringing into this Province, from *Pennsylvania*, or the Territories thereto belonging, or from any other Province or Colony on this Continent, any Horses, Mares, Colts, or Fillies, as you are pleased to say there is. We cannot suppose his Lordship would be unwilling that any of his Officers should do any reasonable Act (and for which they have a sufficient Reward given them) towards carrying into Execution any Law calculated for his Majesty's Service in general, and our own Security in particular.

A Clause is inserted in this Bill, as it was in our second, for exempting Persons voluntarily enlisting, and bearing Arms for six Months, from Payment of all Manner of Taxes, from Labouring on Highways, and Payment of Ferrages, for the Space of two Years from the Date of their Discharge. The