

and to answer the Charges that are laid against them. I do not, *Gentlemen*, design this as a particular Answer to your Address, or to any of the Depositions that should have been annexed thereto; but I cannot help saying it seems a little extraordinary, when the Complainants all know, that if the Troops on the Frontiers were under the Direction or Command of any Person in this Province, they must be under mine, that they should never think of applying to me for Redress, in Case they thought themselves really injured by them. As Mr. *Chapline* is a Member of your House, he has probably acquainted you with the Contents of some Letters, which have been at Times wrote to him by my Order since the Conclusion of the *Baltimore* Session; but lest he should not have been so communicative, I take the Liberty to lay before you Copies of those Letters, together with Copies of such as I, or my Secretary, received from that Gentleman; which I desire may be entered in your Journal, as they will, in my Opinion, most clearly shew, that if any Abuses have been committed by the Officers or Soldiers on our Frontiers, during this last Summer at least, not I, but Mr. *Chapline* is answerable for them. He was then, as well as now, one of the Lower House of Assembly, elected by the Inhabitants of *Frederick* County, and resided near the Place where these Abuses are said to have been committed; he had better Opportunities of examining into the Grounds of any Complaints, which the Frontier Inhabitants may have made, than any other Person; and if he had, upon Enquiry, found them just, he ought to have laid them before me, that I might have immediately taken Care to have the Offenders punished, and the Sufferers redressed. You will be pleased to observe, that this Gentleman was twice reminded of his Duty to his Constituents and to Myself, by Two Letters writ by my special Order; the first of these he was pleased to acknowledge the Receipt of by his Letter dated the 18th of *May*, but his Answer was such as made me conclude, that he was much afraid of being called upon as an Evidence against the Officers, or of having his Name brought in Question; and therefore to free him from all Apprehensions and Restraint, and that I may nevertheless come to the Knowledge of what the Officers may have been accused of, or censured for, in private Conversation, or publicly, I desired Mr. *Ridout* to write to Captain *Chapline* a second Time on the same Subject: This Letter Mr. *Chapline* likewise received, but for Reasons best known to himself, never thought proper to answer; which indeed I am really sorry for, and it will, I doubt not, be by you thought unlucky, since his answering it properly, might possibly have saved the Country a great deal of Money, and you, as well as many others, Abundance of Trouble. But besides what I have already mentioned, I think these Letters will shew, that Captain *Joseph Chapline*, a Member of your House, had very little room to say any Thing which could confirm you in an Opinion, that I had done wrong in ordering out any of the Militia this last Summer to serve on the Frontiers: As there are many Gentlemen among you that were Members of the late Lower House of Assembly, it is unnecessary to repeat the lamentable Story (whether true or false is not now the Question) that Mr. *Chapline's* Brother came to *Baltimore*, and told us when we were there assembled, all the Soldiers that were at that Time in Garrison at *Fort Frederick*, or employed on this Side the *North-Mountain*, were not more than about Seventy at most, and several of these were sick in the Hospital. This Consideration determined me to order a Company of the Militia on Duty at that Time; and other Reasons of equal Weight induced me to order out Two small Detachments afterwards; all which I have already recommended it to you to provide for the Payment of, and I hope you have readily complied with my Request.

December 9th, 1757.

HOR^o. SHARPE.

The following are the annexed Letters, which are referred to in the Governor's Message, &c.

Copy.

To Captain Joseph Chapline, and to Lieutenant Moses Chapline, of Frederick County.

WHEREAS I have been informed, that a considerable Number of *Indians* have lately killed several Persons in *Frederick* County, at no great Distance from your Habitations, and that they are still Lurking in that Part of the Province with an Intention, as might be reasonably supposed, to do more Mischief; I have thought fit, and do hereby empower and direct you to muster the Company of Militia under your Command, and with the said Company or any other Men capable of bearing Arms (that shall be willing to join you) to Range on the Frontiers for the Protection of the Inhabitants, till a greater Body of Troops can be Raised for their Defence. You are to act agreeable to the Militia Laws of this Province, while you are on this Service, and to keep a Journal of your Proceedings in Consequence of these Orders, to be returned to me at the End of one Month, before which Time you may expect to be relieved.

Given at *Baltimore* the 23d of *April*, 1757.

HOR^o. SHARPE.

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HONOURED