

Regular Troops, to embark for *Virginia*. Between the End of this Session, and the 22d of *February* 1755, when the Assembly met again, I had been told that some of the Gentlemen had said, "there could be no Reason for granting any more Money for his Majesty's Service, before the Sum which had been given in *July* was nearly expended;" and therefore to obviate that Objection, I thought proper, on the 26th of that Month, to lay before the House a general Account of fundry Sums that had been already paid out of the 6000 *l.* or that were then supposed to be due out of that Money, together with the following Message:

"Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

"The inclosed Papers will acquaint you, in general, how Part of the 6000 *l.* granted by an Act passed in *July* last, has been expended for his Majesty's Service."

Among these Papers were some Muster-Rolls, which had been returned by Capt. *Dagworthy*, and Three or four Papers that I had received from Colonel *Cresap*; these were not, to the best of my Remembrance, either dated or signed by Colonel *Cresap*, or any other Person; but they served to shew that the Colonel had either laid in or engaged as much Flour, Salt Provisions, Live Stock, &c. as would, with the Waggon Hire, and other contingent Charges, and including the Price of some Saws, Blankets, &c. which he had supplied the Soldiers with, cost 1839 *l.*

The Money that had been disbursed for raising and cloathing the Company of Soldiers commanded by Capt. *Dagworthy*, and to pay the Officers and Men to a certain Day in *February*, amounted to upwards of 2000 *l.* and it was estimated, that several contingent Charges (Accounts of some of which had been delivered in to me, and others not) would amount to upwards of 1000 *l.* more, so that there was by the Estimate that I then made, very little more than 1000 *l.* remaining unexpended and unengaged of the whole 6000 *l.* which had been granted in the preceding Summer. After the Assembly was Prorogued, which it was the 26th of *March*, I sent, according to Custom, for the several Letters, and for all the Papers, that I had laid before the House during the Session, and they were accordingly all returned to me; but whether those Papers were sent or brought to me by the Clerk of the House, or the Clerk of the Committee, I cannot say I at this Time perfectly remember, the Transaction having happened near Three Years ago. After the Conclusion of the Session, there was likewise returned to me, as usual, a Copy of the Journal of the Proceedings in the Lower House during that Session; and on perusing it, I found therein, a Report of a Committee which had been appointed to examine the Papers that I had laid before the House with my Message of the 26th of *February*. It appeared that the Report had not been concurred with by the House, and for that Reason I suppose it was never Printed in the Journal; but as I perceived that the Committee had made many Remarks on Colonel *Cresap*'s Papers, Estimates or Accounts, or whatever you will be pleased to call them, and Reported that many of his Charges were Extravagant, I thought it was very proper he should be acquainted with the Committee's Opinion of him, and therefore I took a Copy thereof, and ordered Mr. *Ridout* to send it to the Colonel, together with the said Papers, by the first Opportunity of Convoiance, and at the same Time to desire, that he would immediately call in all the Accounts of the People from whom he had purchased any Thing for the Use of the Troops, and that he would then make out and send down, with proper Vouchers, a regular, methodical, and clear Account of every Thing that he had purchased, and of the Money which he had paid, for any Services done by my Order.

If it should be still insisted on by any Person, that these Papers of Colonel *Cresap*'s were really Accounts, I shall only say, that whatever Light they may have appeared in to any one else, I did not consider them as such, when I laid them before the House; and for this I appeal to Mr. *Waggaman*, a Member of your House, who was one of that Committee, and remembers, that during the Session held in *February* 1755, I Declared, that by sending those Papers to the House, I intended nothing more than to shew what Colonel *Cresap*'s Demands, on a Settlement, might in all Probability be. But let it be supposed they were returned by Col. *Cresap* as proper Accounts, and by me laid before the House as such; ought I not, when the Committee had Reported "that they were stated in a dark, confused, and unintelligible Manner," to have withdrawn and sent them back to Col. *Cresap*, in order that he might have Stated them in a more clear, methodical, and intelligible Manner; or would they have become less dark and obscure by lying till this Time, or till the next Session, in the Hands of the Clerk? But to proceed with the Narrative: A few Days after I had desired Mr. *Ridout* to return the Papers to Col. *Cresap*, viz. about the Middle of *April* 1755, he accompanied Sir *Jean St. Clair* to *Winchester*, and as the Road thither lay by the Mouth of *Conococheague*, he took the Papers with him, and gave them to Mr. *Thomas Cresap*, who then lived at that Place, together with the said Extract from the Committee's Report, and the Letter which he had writ to the Colonel in Pursuance of my Order.

It happened that just before General *Braddock* marched from Fort *Cumberland*, one of the Officers who served under him, had Enlisted some of Mr. *Lowndes*'s Ship-Builders, whom he could very ill spare, and

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