

“ that Part of the Country abandoned”) should be made use of, as a Precedent, for ordering the Militia out at a Time when scarce a Person could be found, who could truly say, he was apprehensive of any Danger at all.

This shews us the Danger of even being silent, whenever Power may exceed it's plain and express Limits; and teaches us, that notwithstanding in such a Case there may be a plausible Appearance of present Good, yet we ought to suspect some latent Evil is intended, and guard well against every bad Consequence which may possibly flow from a Stretch of Power beyond it's due Bounds.

The Seventh of *October* last, your Excellency was pleased to send to us the following Message: “ I think proper to inform you, that upon the Application of Capt. *Chapline*, a Member of your House, and a great Number of our Frontier Inhabitants, I did, the Third of *August* last, order Capt. *Delosmust* and Capt. *Moses Chapline* to march Part of their respective Companies, and to patrol on the Frontiers for their Protection. The Time for which they were ordered out, is now expired; but they tell me, that if other Parties are not sent to relieve them, the Settlement of *Conococheague* will, in all Probability, be immediately broke up, the People being thrown into the greatest Consternation by an Account that they have received from the Mouth of *Opeccan River* in *Virginia*, near which Place 'tis said, that Seventeen Persons were killed and captivated by a large Party of *Indians* the Thirtieth of last Month, while the Garrison at *Fort Frederick* is too weak and sickly to send out so many and such large Parties, as the Inhabitants think necessary for their Security. I do not choose at this Time, to order out any more of the Militia without your Advice; but if you think it necessary, I will issue Orders for that Purpose.” That Message was taken into Consideration the Eleventh of the same Month, and on that Occasion, those Gentlemen of this House, who were of the late House, seem to have acted under a Caution, which the Use they began to find was to be made of their former Approbation of your Excellency's Conduct, in sending out the Militia, had taught them; when they joined the other Members of this House in an unanimous Resolve the same Day, that there was no Necessity then of sending out the Militia, as there were Forces then in the Pay of this Province more than sufficient to guard the Frontiers thereof, and in Consequence of that Resolve, on the Fourteenth, sent your Excellency the following Address: “ We are greatly concerned to find by your Message of the Seventh Instant, that while there have been a Number of Troops kept up under your Command, in the Pay of this Province, on the Frontiers thereof, more than sufficient for the immediate Defence and Security of the back Inhabitants, there should be Application made to you by Capt. *Joseph Chapline*, and a Number of those People, for Protection against their Savage Enemies: And we cannot but be of Opinion, that if even a Part of those Troops had been put under and punctually performed the Duty clearly enjoined them by the Law, by which they were raised and supported, there would not have been any Room for those Applications, or the least Pretence for ordering out any Part of the Militia in Consequence thereof. And this Opinion we are confirmed in by the Sentiments of Capt. *Joseph Chapline*, now a Member of our House, and several other back Inhabitants. And therefore, as the ordering out the Militia is a Measure we cannot approve of, as to what has past, so we think it would be wrong for the present.” We presume, if your Excellency had then obtained the Approbation of this House, for sending out the Militia on that Occasion, you would not, in order to have prevented the Settlement of *Conococheague* being immediately broke up, and to have quieted the People, then in a Consternation by the Account of the Death and Captivation of Seventeen Persons at *Opeccan*, have ordered out the Militia of *Queen-Anne's* and *Kent* Counties, or even *Calvert*, though it was then a mild Season of the Year: Why then would your Excellency, contrary to the Opinion of this House, at the most severe Season of the Year, and at a Time when not so much as a Report of an Incurfion was stirring, send out the Militia of *Queen-Anne's* and *Kent* Counties, far distant from the Frontiers, and on the Eastern Side of the Bay? Or, Why the Militia of *Calvert* now, when may be added to these Circumstances, the Protection we all expect from the Party of *Cherokees*, who, your Excellency knows, are well encouraged by a proper Present made them this Session, and have engaged to act offensively in our Interest, and other numerous Parties, which, 'tis said, are now on, and coming to, our Frontiers, probably for the same Purpose? Indeed your Excellency was pleased, in your Message of the 23d of *February* last, in Answer to our Address of that Day, to say, “ You had good Reason to apprehend, that the Soldiers which had been raised for the more immediate Defence of our Frontier Inhabitants, would disband themselves when they found that the Assembly had broke up, without making any further Provision for their Support: You thought it your indispensable Duty to order Two Companies of Militia to the Frontiers, lest the People that were settled there, being left without any Hopes of Assistance or Protection, should desert their Habitations, or fall an easy Prey to the Enemy:” But as a Bill was sent up from this House last Session, making Provision for sup-