

Designs that he might have, tending to destroy the Liberties of the People, to compel the whole Militia of the Province, at any Time when he might suggest Danger, to march to any Part of the Province he pleased, and keep them there, until their Representatives had complied with all his Demands, let them be never so extravagant or injurious to the People. Such a Power, we conceive, is not given, nor could ever have been intended to be given by any Men in their Senses. But, suppose your Excellency has, by that Law, all the Powers given you that you can suggest, we beg Leave humbly to Remonstrate to your Excellency, that the Exercise of the Power of marching the Militia of the Eastern Shore to the Frontier, upon the late Occasion, and the Orders for marching a Company of Militia from *Calvert* County thither at this Time, when we are informed there are near Four Hundred Men there, most, if not all of whom, your Excellency has sufficient Reason to be convinced, will be paid by this Province; and when the Presence of our good Friends and Brothers the *Cherokees*, which have continued with us ever since *November* last, and (as you have been pleased to inform us by your Message of the 29th of *March* last) "will be of great Service, and in all Probability contribute much to the Security of the Inhabitants," has already, and must undoubtedly continue to raise great Discontents and Uneasiness in the Minds of his Majesty's good Subjects of this Province, committed to your Care, and to alienate their Affections from his Lordship's Government; and if not desisted from, but attempted to be continued in Practice, may, we are apprehensive, be productive of the worst of Consequences; for we are informed it is the general Opinion of the People (even of those for whose Protection the Militia of *Queen-Anne's* and *Kent* Counties were marched, at that severe Season of the Year) that it was not necessary for the Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants, to have any Militia there at the Time those Militia were ordered out. From whence, we are apprehensive, unprejudiced Persons may infer, that those who advised your Excellency to take that Measure, intended, under the specious Pretence of affording present Protection to a Few, by Degrees to introduce an Arbitrary Power, the Exercise of which must, in the End, inevitably Enslave the Whole.

If the March of those Militia had been lawful and necessary (which we are clearly of Opinion it was not) yet we are humbly of Opinion, that the Impressing large Quantities of Provisions for them, in the Counties they marched from, and consequently putting the Country to the Expence of Carriages from the several Places where they were Impressed, when they might have been got at a much cheaper Rate in the Frontier County, and thereby the heavy Charge of Carriage mostly prevented, is imposing an unnecessary and heavy Burthen and Tax upon the People; and with what View it has been done, we are at a Loss to imagine.

We cannot suppose that your Excellency would pursue such Measures, in order to disquiet and distress the good People of any particular Part of this Province: But should a Power of marching the Militia, even when there may be any trifling IncurSION (tho' in the present Case there was none) and that from Counties far distant from the Place where it may happen, and carrying their Provisions from those Counties, when they may be had much cheaper on the Frontier, and the Expence of Carriage prevented, be once established by frequent Use, under even plausible Pretences; if ever this Province should be so unfortunate as to be under the Government of a Gentleman of less humane and benevolent Disposition than we are persuaded possesses your Excellency's Breast, we tremble to reflect upon the Consequences! Might it not justly be feared (among many other Evils) that every Man, and every Set of Men, who might in Discharge of the indispensible Duty of their Stations, be obliged to act in such a Manner as might embarrass such a Gentleman in his unjust Views, and their Favourers, Adherents and Dependants, would soon feel the Weight of his Resentment, in being compelled to march to the Frontiers of this Province, there to be stationed during his Pleasure? Not in order to repel a foreign Invasion, but to disgust the People against their Representatives, and thereby procure a Compliance with all his unjust Demands, let them be never so ruinous and destructive to the Liberties and Properties of the People? We are sorry to say there is too much Room to fear it might. And we hope we shall be excused, if, on this Occasion, we trespass upon your Excellency's Patience, while we bring to public View, the Behaviour of some of the good People of this Province, when, from concurrent Accounts, a Probability of a foreign Invasion appeared to them; and that not in This, but in a neighbouring Province; and compare it with their Behaviour in the present Case.

Upon a Report's prevailing some Time about the Month of *November*, 1755, that a Body of about Twelve Hundred *French* and *Indians* had invaded *Pennsylvania*, and penetrated as far as the Town of *Lancaster* in that Government; How did the People of this Province behave? Did they shew any Disloyalty or Disaffection to our present happy Establishment? Did they shew any Want of Zeal for the Common Cause, or Unwillingness to assist their Neighbours? Did they wait till all the Influence of Government was made use of to persuade, and all it's Powers were stretched to the utmost, and new ones assumed, to compel them to march? No, on the contrary, they made the most speedy Applications they possibly could to the Government,