

vernment, for Leave to march to the Assistance of their Neighbours, believed, by them, to be in Distress; and accordingly in a very few Days at least Eight Hundred Men of *Kent* and *Cecil*, were far advanced towards the Northern Frontier of this Province, on their Way to meet the Enemy; and the Militia of several other Counties had, in the same Time, we are informed, got themselves in Readiness (as well as they could) to march on the same Occasion; when happily, the Report proved to be groundless. The Alacrity, with which many Gentlemen accompanied your Excellency to the Western Frontier, after the unhappy Defeat of his Majesty's Troops under General *Braddock*, upon only the bare Suggestion of an Invasion, we presume you cannot but be mindful of. But upon the present Occasion, as there was not so much as a Report of even an Incurfion of a single Enemy, among the most distant of the Frontier Settlers, it cannot be wondered at that the Militia of *Queen-Anne's* and *Kent* Counties shewed so great an Unwillingness to march out, and expose themselves to the Severities of the most rigorous Season of the Year, to do a Duty they pay others to perform; and which never was, by any Law of this Province, intended to be imposed upon them; till at Length by Threats of Punishment, we presume, they were induced to move; for we cannot learn, that any compulsive Methods have yet been made use of, agreeable to the Mode prescribed by the aforesaid Law, against any who refused to go.

And we presume it will be as little wondered at, if the Militia of *Calvert*, or any other County, at this Time ordered to march, should to a Man refuse; as this Province is happily free from any Invasion, or any Report of one, and is preparing, in Conjunction with the neighbouring Colonies, and his Majesty's Regular Forces, to act vigorously and offensively against the Enemy; and there is no small Reason, from a late Message of his Honour Governor *Denny*, to the Assembly of *Pennsylvania*, to hope, that most of the *Indians* to the Westward of us are well inclined, at least to forbear their Incurfions.

Upon the Whole, we cannot but entertain the warmest Hopes, that your Excellency, moved by the calamitous Circumstances, which many of his Majesty's faithful and truly loyal Subjects have already been and must inevitably be reduced to, by being marched to the Frontier of this Province, at a Season of the Year the most severe, and there stationed for so long a Time, as must render it impossible for them to give that Attendance to their Crops which is necessary, in order to procure a bare Subsistence to their Families, and to enable them to pay the Public Taxes, necessarily already, and which must be hereafter imposed, for his Majesty's Service, and their own Security: And clearly sensible of the slavish Condition we and our Posterity must be reduced to (for we are persuaded from your Excellency's real Inclination) by the introducing into Practice, and establishing such a Power, under the aforesaid Law (were it undoubtedly in Force, which we cannot allow) as your Excellency in the present Case has been advised to carry into Execution: We say, we cannot but depend, that your Excellency's really benevolent Disposition will so far excite your Compassion for our Fellow-Subjects, who have suffered on the late, and who may suffer on the present Occasion, and our latest Posterity who must suffer on all like Occasions, that it will induce you to take an attentive and dispassionate Review of the whole Affair; from which we must express our Confidence, that your Goodness will prompt you to give immediate Directions for preventing any further Attempts for marching the Militia from *Kent* County, who have so greatly suffered already; and to recal your Orders for the March of the Militia of *Calvert*, or any other Counties, now under Orders for that Purpose (those of *Queen-Anne's* County we need not mention, as their Sufferings are now past Redress) that they may all, at least while they pay so many to protect them, remain quiet at their Homes, in the Pursuit of their several Occupations and Employments, for the Support of their Families, and the Benefit of the Public.

And we must further express our Confidence, that your Excellency will not for the future, give any Orders for the March of any of the Militia of this Province, unless at a Time when the Occasions, mentioned in the aforesaid Law, do really and manifestly exist; and when they do, we are persuaded the People will readily overlook any extraordinary Exertion of Power, that such calamitous Circumstances might render absolutely necessary for their Safety.

Which was Read and Assented to, and Signed, by Order of the House, by the Honourable Speaker.

Ordered, That *Alexander Williamson*, Esq; and *Mr. Owings*, do acquaint his Excellency, That this House hath prepared an Address and Remonstrance, to be presented to him, and desires to know when and where he will receive it. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker, That the Governor signified he would receive the Address and Remonstrance immediately in the Council Chamber.

Ordered, That *Philip Hammond*, Esq; with Twelve more, do present the Address and Remonstrance to the Governor.

The House adjourns till II of the Clock.

Post-Meridie. The House met according to Adjournment, &c.

Mr. *Reynolds* appeared in the House.

Mr. *Plater* hath Leave of Absence.