

themselves when they found that the Assembly had broke up, without making any further Provision for their Support, I thought it my 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; to this you Answer, that as a Bill was sent up from your House last Session, making Provision for supporting Three Companies of the Soldiers, which had been raised for his Majesty's Service, and the more immediate Defence of our Frontier Inhabitants, it would seem that these Soldiers thought they had sufficient Reason to depend, that the several Branches of the Legislature would soon agree upon some Bill for that Purpose, though they had broke up without doing any Thing at that Time, and that you presume it is this reasonable Dependance which has prevented the Soldiers disbanding themselves, even to this Time: That the Soldiers on our Frontiers, or their Officers at least, hope they shall ere long receive their Arrears of Pay, is very probable; how reasonable such their Dependance is, the Event of this Session will determine. The Declarations you have now made, give me Room to hope, that neither they, nor the Person that hath Victualled them since the Money granted for their Support has been expended, will be disappointed in their Expectations; but it surely must be acknowledged, that Men in this State of Dependance and Uncertainty are in a very different Situation from that of Troops which are actually in Pay, and I doubt not but your Constituents, notwithstanding your Endeavours to represent them as one and the same, will readily perceive the Difference.

The Power of the Governor, and of such Officers as might be Commissioned by the Commander in Chief of this Province, to compel the Militia of one County to march into another, and the Obligation the Militia are under to obey the Commands of such Governor, or their respective Officers, having been already stated, I pass on to your Dissertation on the Word *Invasion*, which it seems by your Account is something different from an *Incurfion*: I could wish you had before you proceeded to argue so much about this Word, thought proper to define it, and to tell us what, in your Opinion, an *Invasion* is as well as what it is not.

According to *Bailey*, an *Invasion* is an Inroad or Descent upon a Country; he does not say by what Number of the Enemy, how long they must Stay, whether they may be all Light-Armed, or whether it is absolutely necessary that they should bring with them any Artillery or heavy Baggage. If you recur to the Laws that were made here at different Times before the Militia Act at present in Question, you will find that they often speak of the Danger the Inhabitants of this Province were exposed to by the frequent *Incurfions and Invasions* of their common Enemy the *Indians*; and the Records will shew you, that your Ancestors thought themselves *invaded* when any Party of *Indians* came into or even approached the Province with a hostile Intent: In this Sense, the Party of the Enemy that did the Mischief on *Conococheague* in August 1756, about six Weeks before the late Lower House of Assembly addressed me to order out the Militia that marched from *Prince-George's* and *Charles* Counties to the Frontiers, might be said to have made an *Incurfion*; but when the Detachment from Fort *Duquesne* appeared near Fort *Cumberland* in December last, the Province was under an *actual Invasion*, altho' no Report of an Enemy's being near it had reached the Ears of any Person that resided in *Kent*, or *Queen-Anne's*, County. Whether the Gentlemen who penned those Laws, and talked of an *Invasion* by *Indians*, knew the Meaning and Force of that Word, so well as some of their Descendants pretend to do, I shall not take upon me to determine; nor should I perhaps, if you had thought proper to give a Definition of it, have taken the Liberty to tell you what your Ancestors thought an *Invasion*; but since I have mentioned them, give me leave to add, that if They had thought it was *too soon* to march before their Enemies were in the Heart of the Country, and that it was *too late* to stir after their Enemies had retired again beyond the Inhabitants, the Number of his Majesty's faithful and loyal Subjects in *Maryland*, would in all Probability have been now far less considerable than it is at present.

I am glad to find, you are at length persuaded, that our Frontier Inhabitants might be in some Degree protected by Parties making Excursions from Fort *Cumberland* into the Country that our Enemies are at present in Possession of; tho' it is still a Question with me, whether the People who live about *Conococheague* thought that this Excursion of the *Cherokees* (who, by the Bye, are in another Part of your Address supposed to be at this very Time on our Frontiers) contributed at all to their Security, for they have been made to think, that no Men who are employed in any Manner whatever beyond the North Mountain can be of any real Service; and it was I presume from the same Opinion, that you proposed by the Bill which was rejected by the Upper House in December last, to make it Criminal for any of our Officers or Men to go beyond that Mountain, even in Pursuit of any of the Enemy, tho' they should have been sure of overtaking them.