

It does not I presume necessarily follow, that because I am of Opinion I had a Power to march, by Advice of the Council, the Companies of Militia abovementioned, that therefore I must suppose I had an Authority to march the Militia of this Province whenever and wheresoever I should please, even without their Advice, and that some future Governor might, by Virtue of the same Authority, whenever he shall find himself opposed in any unjust Views or Designs, compel the whole Militia of the Province to march to any distant Part of it, and keep them there-until their Representatives shall have complied with all his extravagant Demands: I can answer for myself, that a due Sense of my Duty to the Lord Proprietary, and a sincere Regard for the People committed to my Care, will always make me extremely cautious, and avoid every Step that might give them just Cause of Discontent or Uneasiness, or tend to alienate their Affections from his Lordship's Government; and I cannot believe that any Governor in his Senses, would ever think of harrassing the Militia of this Province in such a Manner or with such a View, tho' he was intirely Independent and not answerable to any Superiors for his Conduct.

If the March of those Militia was lawful and necessary, and I hope you are by this Time clearly of Opinion it was both, the Impressing Provisions for them in the Counties whence they marched, was a Measure that could not be well avoided, notwithstanding the Country was thereby put to some extraordinary Expence on Account of the Carriage. That Provisions may be bought for ready Money at a cheaper Rate in *Frederick* County than on the Eastern Side of the Bay, is perhaps true; but what was that to me who had not ready Money to purchase with. Suppose I should find myself obliged to defend or protect this Country with Militia as long as it shall continue in the Circumstances described in our Law, Ought the People of *Frederick* County alone to supply them gratis with Provisions? Or, in other Words, Should the Principal, or almost the Whole Burthen of such a Defensive War, fall upon those that are supposed to be the least able to bear it? This, I am satisfied, was far from being the Desire of the late Lower House of Assembly, when they told me in their Address, that they were sensible the Impressing Provisions for the Militia from the Frontier Inhabitants, might greatly distress them, and when they made Provision for the immediate Payment of any Persons that would engage to victual such Militia; if you consider likewise the Difficulty a Press-master must meet with, as well as the Time that must be spent in collecting any considerable Quantity of Provisions, and the Loss any Officers of Militia would be at in a County where they should neither be acquainted with the Press-masters, nor any other Person; you will, I flatter myself, be reconciled to all the Steps that have been taken, especially when the Gentlemen of *Calvert* County have told you, that the principal, if not the only, Reason, why the Company of Militia, commanded by Captain *Brome*, delayed to march so long after he received my Orders, was, that a sufficient Quantity of Provisions could not be collected for them so soon as was expected, and that they were afraid of suffering through Want of Food, after they should arrive at their Place of Destination.

I am obliged to you for believing, that I did not order the Militia from *Kent*, *Queen Anne's* and *Calvert* Counties now, or from *Anne-Arundel*, *Baltimore*, *Charles*, *Frederick* and *Prince-George's* Counties heretofore, with an Intention to disquiet and distress the good People of any particular Parts of the Province. In this you do me great Justice, as my sole Design in giving those Orders, and the Design of the Gentlemen that advised me, was to prevent the good People in one particular Part of the Province being disquieted or distressed; and I cannot conceive that any future Governor of this Province, however unworthy he may be of the Appellation of Humane and Benevolent, will ever think of making the March of these Companies a Precedent for ordering others hereafter to the Frontiers, and stationing them there, not for the Space of a Month or Six Weeks only, and not in order to repel a foreign Invasion, or to protect the Inhabitants from the most imminent Danger, but to gratify his private Resentment, and with a View of disgusting the People against their Representatives. Should the Government of *Maryland* be in the Hands of a Person of such a Turn, the People would, no Doubt, be unhappy; but it is to be hoped, that his Council will think themselves and their Families too much interested in the Happiness and Welfare of their Country, to countenance or connive at such an Attempt; and he will most undoubtedly find by Experience, that instead of disgusting the People against their Representatives, by such arbitrary Proceedings, he will inevitably bring their Resentment and Execrations on himself.

It gives me great Pleasure to find, that you now see the Behaviour of the Militia, that ran to their Arms on the Alarm that happened in *November* 1755, in it's proper Light; the Willingness they shewed to march to the Assistance of their Fellow-Subjects in another Province, was truly laudable: I return you Thanks for your Eulogium on them, and am thereby encouraged to remind you of a Message that I sent to the Lower House of Assembly the next Session afterwards, wherein were the following Words: "I must also recommend it to you, to repay the Officers of the Militia of *Cecil*, *Kent* and *Frederick* Counties, what