

“ they expended on the Alarm in *November* last, when it was believed in those Counties that a large Body of *Indians* were advancing toward the Center of the Province.” It appears by *their* Journal, that *the* House about a Month afterwards, referred the Officers Accounts for Consideration of the next Session: The Consequence of which has been, that none of them have been yet paid, tho’ an *Act* has been passed since I laid them before the House, for Payment of the Public Charge of this Province, by Virtue of which, many Members of that House, as several Gentlemen among you can testify, have received, or may in a few Weeks receive, to the Value of some Hundred Pounds a-piece, for serving their Country as Representatives in Assembly.

The Number of Gentlemen that accompanied me on my Journey to the Frontiers in the Year 1755, after the Defeat of General *Braddock*, was not, I believe, so large as you imagine; the Company consisted of Lieutenant *Gold* and Ensign *Russell* of his Majesty’s Forces, Mr. *Ridout* my Secretary, the Deputy-Sheriff of *Frederick* County, and Mr. *Isaac Baker*, besides Five or Six young Men that seemed fond of going with us from *Frederick-Town*, and whose Expences I bore; not that I suppose it would have been difficult for me to get a greater Number, but I thought these were enough; besides I was unwilling to take the People from their Harvest, or to put the Country to any Expence that could possibly be avoided.

With Regard to the Behaviour of the Militia that were ordered out on the present Occasion from *Kent* and *Queen-Anne’s* Counties, I can only repeat what I have been told by their Officers, that no sooner had they received my Orders to march, than some who have the Honour to sit in your House, exerted their utmost Endeavours to dissuade and discourage them from marching; the Officers were first practised with, and afterwards the Men. All the Reasons contained in the Address, which you have now presented to me, were urged to them, together with some which you have not in the Address taken Notice of, particularly, that altho’ I had a Right or Power to oblige the whole Militia of a County to march, yet I had no Authority to order the Officers of a Regiment to determine among themselves by drawing Lots, which of them should take the Command of, and March with, a Company or Detachment. I have been told likewise, that many Artifices were used to hinder the Preſ-masters from executing my Warrants; however, both they, and the Officers to whom my Orders were sent, knew their Duty, and performed it. And the Men, after the Impression that these fallacious Arguments had at first made on them was effaced, obeyed their Officers Commands, excepting a few, whose Names I understand were returned by their Captain to a Justice of the Peace, according to the Directions of the Act of Assembly: Whether they have been all as yet carried before him, and whether he admitted the Excuses of such as were, or to what it is owing that none of them were bound over to the last Provincial Court, I have not been able to learn; but as the Clerk of the Council was ordered several Days ago to write to Mr. *Ringgold* the Justice, I expect that that Gentleman will soon send us a particular Account of the Steps he has taken with respect to this Affair; and if it shall appear that he hath been deficient in Point of Duty, as it is supposed by some that he has, you may depend that proper Notice shall be taken of his Offence or Neglect.

After what you have often said concerning the Ravages that have been Committed since the *French* and their *Indian* Allies first made a Descent on this and the two Neighbouring Provinces, I am surprized, *Gentlemen*, to hear you speak of them as trifling Incurſions, and that you should take Occasion from a Message which Governor *Denny* sent in *March* last to the Assembly of *Pennsylvania*, to propagate an Opinion that we have nothing more to fear from the *Indians* to the Westward, when we have received Accounts of their having since that Time attacked the Frontier Inhabitants of *Pennsylvania* in three different Places, and cut off or carried into Captivity a very considerable Number of those unhappy People.

Should the Issue of this Session be such as I most earnestly hope it will, I shall immediately Countermand the Orders that have been sent to Captain *Brome* and to the Captain of a Company of Militia in *Cæcil* County; but if you should unhappily break up again, without making Provision for the Support of any Troops, either to act under the Command of Brigadier *Forbes*, or to be left on our Frontiers, I apprehend the Gentlemen of the Council will think it absolutely necessary that Two or Three Companies of Militia should immediately March, lest upon our Troops Disbanding themselves (as they then undoubtedly will, though no Member of your House shall advise them to do so) the Frontier Inhabitants should despair abandon their Plantations, or fall an easy Prey to their Savage and Cruel Enemies. I assure you, *Gentlemen*, that nothing could give me greater Uneasiness than to find myself obliged to take a Step which must necessarily put many of the People of this Province to Inconveniencies, and that it will not be because I have less Compassion for those whose Lot it may be to march, than yourselves, if I should issue fresh Orders, but because I think myself answerable for the Lives of the People committed to my Care, and that it is my indispensable Duty to use every legal Means in my Power for their Defence. I flatter myself that