

“ the more immediate Protection and Defence of this Province.” A Bill was accordingly brought in, and passed both Houses; but while it lay before me for my Perusal and Consideration, I was told by several Gentlemen, that those who had penned some Clauses of it, wherein the Word *Frontier* was used, seem'd to have been studious to lay a Foundation for Disputes; that while some insisted that by *that Word* was meant the Boundary or Limits of the Province, or at least the most distant Part of it that had been settled before the War broke out, others alledged that by the Word *Frontier* was intended or pointed out, that Part of the Country where the Westernmost Plantations, which were then occupied, lay, and gave it as their Opinion, that if any of the Troops were posted at, or marched to, any Place *beyond Fort Frederick*, and not out of the Province, the Agents ought not to pay or victual them.

As I was extremely anxious to avoid and remove every Thing that might possibly cause Misunderstandings, and become Occasion of Dispute afterwards between the Assembly and Myself, between the Officer that should be appointed to Command the Troops and the Agents, between the Agents and Myself, and in short between any Persons whatever that might be concerned with the said Troops, I intimated to one of the Agents, (who being a Member of the Lower House was then in Town) my Desire to speak with him, and upon his complying with my Request, I asked him, Whether he should think himself impowered by the Bill, which had then passed both Houses, to victual and pay any of the 500 Men that should be posted at *Fort Cumberland*, and whether he thought that Part of the Bill, which I was informed had been the Subject of Conversation and Dispute, was sufficiently clear and explicit? The Gentleman's Answer was to this Effect, That some Members of the House were of Opinion, that the Agents would be at Liberty to pay such Troops, while others said that the Bill vested them with no such Power; but that when the Bill was Enacted into a Law, he should be for taking Advice thereon. When I perceived that the Gentleman avoided giving a direct Answer to the Question I had asked him, I thought the only Way left for me to have the Matter cleared up, so that both the Agents and Myself might know the Sense of the House, was to send them a Message, which, with the Approbation of that Gentleman, I accordingly did in the following Words:

“ Gentlemen, As I observe that the Word *Frontier* frequently occurs in the Bill, entituled, *An Act for his Majesty's Service, and the more immediate Defence and Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants of this Province*, which has been Framed by you this Session, and having received the Concurrence of the Upper House, now lies for my Assent; and as it has been a Question, what Part of the Province is to be understood by that Word, I must desire you to give me your Sense of the Word, and particularly what Part of *Maryland* you designed by it in the following Clause of the abovementioned Bill; *And be it further Enacted, that the said Five Hundred Men, or so many of them as shall be at any Time in the Pay of this Province, except such Number as may be necessary to be left at Fort Frederick, shall be employed in Ranging about the Frontier thereof, for the Quiet and Protection of the Inhabitants. Provided always, and be it Enacted, That when, upon any Emergency, his Majesty's Commander in Chief, or Person properly authorized, shall judge it expedient to march any Part of the said Five Hundred Men from the Frontier of this Province, then and in such Case, so many of the aforesaid Men shall be left at Fort Frederick, under a proper Command, as the Governor or Commander in Chief of this Province, for the Time being, shall judge necessary for the more immediate Defence and Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants thereof.*”

This Message having been Read in the Lower House, it was, as appears by the Journal, thereupon ordered, that the following Address should be presented to me, by Way of Answer:

“ It gives us the greatest Concern to find your second Message of this Afternoon, so unprecedented, that we conceive we cannot, without departing from the established Mode of Proceeding, give any other Answer to it, than that it is Unparliamentary.”

Which convinced me, that while I was studious to preserve a right Understanding with the Assembly, there were some at least in the Lower House, who considered more how a Foundation might be then laid for a Rupture at a future Session; nevertheless as I perceived they were determined not to come to any Explanation, I gave my Assent to the Bill, and the next Day issued Commissions for raising the additional Companies. Finding afterwards, that the Agents made some Difficulties about paying those of the Troops which were in Garrison at *Fort Cumberland*, I wrote to the Earl of *Loudoun*, and the King's Officer who then commanded in this Part of the Continent, desiring them to order some other Troops thither, to relieve *Capt. Dagworthy's*; but my Request was not complied with, and the Agents, on farther Consideration, thought it their Duty to issue Pay for that Garrison as long as they had Money in their Hands. Having on the 15th of *October* (1757) sent to the Lower House, which was then sitting, the following Message,

“ Gentlemen, Finding by a Letter that I received this Morning from *Capt. Dagworthy*, that the Garrison of *Fort Cumberland* is in Want of Provisions, I advised the Agents thereof, and recommended it to them to order a Supply thither as soon as possible. In Answer to the Letter that I writ to those Gentlemen on this Occasion, they tell me, that as the Money which was appropriated by the Act of Assembly passed last Session, is entirely expended, it is not in their Power to make any farther Provision for the Troops in the Pay of this Province. The evil Consequences that must naturally follow the Troops being refused Provisions, are so obvious, that you cannot help perceiving them; and therefore I shall only desire you to take this Matter into immediate Consideration.”

They, on the 19th, were pleased to send me this polite Answer:

“ May it please your Excellency, We cannot help expressing our Surprise, that you should recommend it to the Agents, to order a Supply of Provisions to a Garrison at *Fort Cumberland*. Had they in their Hands ever so much of the Money appropriated by the Act of Assembly passed last Session, they undoubtedly would not have laid out any of it in Supplies to a Garrison, stationed contrary to the plain Destination of all the Forces raised and to be supported by that Law. And if any evil Consequences have heretofore or may hereafter follow a Want of such Supplies, let those Answer for them who have, contrary to Law, been the Means of stationing Troops where they had no Authority to place them, and for Want of whose Service, on the Duty assigned them by Law, the Frontier Inhabitants of this Province have been exposed to the Incurfions of their cruel and savage Enemies.”

By Way of Reply to this Address, and to enforce my Message of the 15th, I, on the 21st, sent the House the following: