

within these twelve Months have been deserted & thereby His Ldp. must necessarily have lost at least
the Quit Rents of such Lands which would be considerable & besides scarcely any Purchasers would
be found for Lands in the more populous Parts of the Province & that Fountain of Wealth
would be stopped & His Ldp's Land Office in effect shut up till the Conclusion of this Anno-
-can War or the Reduction of Fort Duquesne & the Ohio-Indians should render people's
Property more secure. Was His Ldp's Case, my own I am sure I should never have hesitated
a Moment to contribute my Share with the People to defend the Province & annoy the Enemy
& I am well convinced that if His Ldp had been on the Spot he would have suffered his Share
to be much more burthened than I have done; but as His Ldp might possibly in England
think very differently from what he would in America I am not without some Apprehensions that
this Step which at the Importunity of his Friends I have taken will be construed as a culpable
Concession & subversive of His Ldp's Rights & prerogatives as I was afraid after what happened
in Pennsylvania last Summer between Gover Morris & his Assembly that our People would as
usual follow the Quakers Example I sent all their Messages Addressed &c to Mr Calvert
acquainted him with my Fears & desired His Ldp's particular Instructions for my Con-
-duct in Case the Assembly of this Province should on their being pressed to grant Supplies
follow the Track that their Neighbours had marked out for them. Tho I have received
Instructions from My Lord on other Matters since my Letters got home yet he has favoured
me with None on that Subject, but Mr Calvert in a Letter that I have lately received from
him says "His Ldp does not doubt of your following & guarding against any Invasion on
his Rights similar in your Defence on his behalf as Governor Morris has done for
the Proprietors of Pennsylvania". by this I understand that His Ldp is absolutely ag-
-ainst my suffering his Estate or Property to be subjected to any Burthen or Tax on any Account
or Consideration whatever; but if that be His Ldp's Sense & Resolution why should he not
have sent me a particular & peremptory Instruction to that purpose? Was what I solicited
& it would have removed all my Scruples or Difficulties, perhaps it would have been im-
-politick & prejudicial to His Ldp's Interest, it might have given Rise to Clamours & inel-
-led the People to make Representations or Remonstrances, They may possibly have called
me in the Sight of the Pennsylvanians an Odious Instrument but yet I should have been no
longer in Uncertainty, & as it is not thought expedient in such Times as these to leave any
thing to the Discretion of a Governor or his Council, Laws should be given for their Gui-
-dance & Direction that knowing their Duty they may act agreeable thereto. When I saw
there was some Probability of the Bills passing both Houses of Assembly I laid before His
Ldp's Council Extracts of my Letters to His Ldp & Mr Calvert relative to the Pennsylvania
Disputes together with Mr Calvert's Answer thereto & desired them to consult & advise me
thereon. This Caution the Importance of the Affair made necessary & I presume their Advice