

as a grievous Burthen & would fain have prevailed on me to reject the Bill partly on that Account
as the Members of the Lower House, would not have heard of such an Amendment to the Bill but on
the contrary have thence taken occasion to charge the Govt. with countenancing & encouraging
Sperery they were never desired to open the Tax but I believe some Attempt will be made by
the papists to get the Act repealed to, or at least to get me instructed & enjoined to oppose &
prevent such unequal Taxation for the future. Soon after General Shirley sent me a
Commission to take the Command of all the Forces that should be raised in these Southern
Colonies for an Expedition to the Westward he informed me that he had writ to Governor
Dobbs to send the Troops that should be raised in his Governmt. to join me & act under my Command
but about a week ago I received a Lett. from Governor Dobbs advising me that agreeable to
General Shirley's Desire he had sent the four Companies that his Assembly had empowered
him to raise to New York by water, & that he had also ordered thither the few Carolinians
that have since last July remained in Garrison at Fort Cumberland. The Pensilvanians
neither have nor will by what I can learn grant any more Supplies nor contribute towards
carrying on any Expedition to the Westward & as None of the Money which our People have
appropriated to that Service is to be used or emitted till both Virg. & Pensilvania have furnished
or engaged to furnish their respective & proportionable Quotas, the Generals Commission & Instru-
ctions to me might have been spared for without Men or Money Arms, Ammunition or Provi-
sions I do not think that even His Excellency himself could much annoy the Enemy or reduce
their Forts. (The Virginians have at length I hear resolved to complete the Regiment they have
vainly endeavoured by other methods to raise with Drafts from the Militia. This Measure it
is hoped will be attended with the Consequences they expect & enable Col. Washington to protect
pretty well the Frontiers of Virg. but I presume he will not advance with them into the
Enemy's Country nor promise to act offensively much this Season. Affairs in America generally
speaking remain in much the same Situation that they were in the 3^d Inst. The Troops to
the Northward are in Motion but by what I can learn the Regulars are very far from being
complete; & it has been hinted to me by an Officer at Albany whose Experience & Judgment
I have a great Opinion of; that we shall have good Reason to sing *Te Deum* at the Conclusion
of this Campaign if Matters are not then in a worse Situation than they are at present. I
intend to proceed to the Frontiers next Monday or Tuesday to give Orders about constructing the Fort
& Block Houses that are to be built there, & as the Officers are all Novices I believe I shall tarry
there with them three weeks or a Month unless any extraordinary Occurrence should make my
return hither before that time expedient & necessary. I am &c.