

enough to cover the Men & to give the Officers an Idea of what I would
done, I took my Leave of them & returned hither the 16th of last Month having
appointed that Day for publishing His Majesty's Declaration of War which
had received by Lord Loudoun. Since that time a Party of Indians has
advanced into Pensil^a reduced one of the Forts that Governor Morris & the
Commissioners built last Year on the Frontiers of that Province & made the Gar-
rison consisting of 25 Men Prisoners. Thence they made a Desert into this Province
& cut off some People that lived more than 20 Miles on this Side our Fort. This
accident has so terrified our Back Inhabitants that Hundreds of them have
abandoned their Plantations & one of our most flourishing German Settlements is
on the Point of being entirely broke up, beside the two Companies belonging to
the Fort I have ordered a Detachment of 200 from the Militia to assist & protect
them but I am afraid that even this Reinforcement will not prevail on them to
stand their Ground, & such an Impression has the Cruelty of Indians made on
their Minds, so little did these People deserve the favourable Opinion that we
heretofore used to entertain of them. The Reduction of Fort Granville in Pens^a
as I have above related has been attended with dreadful Consequences in that
Province, the Inhabitants of a whole County that bordered on it are retired for
the most part over Susquehanna, from easy Circumstances they are at once reduced
to a State of Poverty & extreme Want & by their Flight our Northern Frontier
is left exposed for 30 Miles in length. Thus will these Colonies feel the Consequences
of each others Weakness & our will be the Revolution or Efforts of any one of
them to put a Stop to the Devastations of these Barbarians; they must as they
have been often told act in Conjunction & exert their united Strength to find the
Enemy Employment in their own Country & to the Westward of these Colonies
but alas! as Defensive War is the utmost that any of our Assemblies will
think of or provide for, such a War with Indians will inevitably prove our
Ruin. Governor Denny upon his Arrival gave me some hopes that his Assembly
would grant a very considerable Sum of Money & raise Men for a Western
Expedition but by what I can find his hopes are all frustrated & the Assembly
after sitting a Fortnight continue averse to making any Provision for their own
immediate Defence unless the Governor will accept a Bill imposing a Land Tax
for 20 Years which it seems is a Duration of 19 more than by His Instructions
he is at liberty to agree to. You will easily judge from what has been men-
tioned that these two Colonies are in a deplorable Condition; Virginia is in
much the same Circumstances & I find the Indians have lately begun with
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