

## LETTERS.

---

*Letter to Ld. Bury, Nov. 5th, 1754.*

My Ld:—Your favour of January, I had lately the pleasure to receive by Mr. Christie, and in answer thereto must desire your Ldp. to be assured that that and every letter of the same sort shall command any services from me, to any gentleman here, who might be fortunate enough to get themselves recommended to your Ldp's. notice. Your Ldp. will, I hope excuse me for adding to these few lines, (which I cannot but think too concise a letter to your Ldp.) a brief narration of some occurrences that have happened here since my arrival on the Continent, and are looked upon at home I find as well as with us, as matters of no trivial importance. About this time twelve months, the several Governors on this Continent, received Letters from England, whereby they were advised of the march of a considerable body of Europeans and Indians, towards the English settlements, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and were also forbid to conive at, or suffer any such apprehended intrusion or incursion of foreigners into his Majesty's territories and dominions, but ordered to repel them by every means in their power.

These letters were, I apprehend, transmitted hither in consequence of some representations that had been made home in the preceeding spring, however, on the receipt of them Governor Denwiddie sent a messenger, with a letter to the commander of a party of French, who had lately marched down from Canada, and were building a fort on the river Ohio, westward of the province of Pennsylvania, and about 150 miles from the inhabited part of Virginia, requiring him to retire and relinquish His Majesty's, the King of Great Britains land, on which they were then presuming to erect a fort. Instead of complying with Governor Denwiddie's request, the French Commandant replied that it was more the part of his commander, the Governor of Canada than his to dispute with the Governor of Virginia about the property of the land he was then possessed of, that for his part he was only concerned with his commanding officers orders, which he was determined punctually to obey and repel by force whatever power should attempt to dislodge or interrupt him in ye execution of his duty. On the messengers return with this answer, Governor Denwiddie thought proper to order a party of 30 men to advance to the Ohio some miles below the French fort, and prepare materials, for erecting a fortress also upon that river, hoping the General Assembly of Virginia, (whom he immediately convened) and