

Flagrant Acts of Hostility, and I hope you will not give a softer Appellation than that of an Invasion, to their unjust Usurpations and Encroachments on his Majesty's Dominions, their Presumption to erect Forts on Lands to which our Sovereign has a most indubitable Right by a Concession, or rather a Purchase, not many Years since, from the *Indians*, who 'til that Time had held them in Possession. The Summons sent them to retire and relinquish Territories, to which they could have no just Pretensions, you see was answered with a Letter of Defiance; and by them, or at their Instigation, the greatest Violences were committed on several of our Fellow Subjects. 'Twas this Behaviour, and the Dread of repeated Insults, that obliged the *Virginians* to enter on Measures, which, as they demand our highest Approbation, we cannot, without the Charge of Inhumanity, render abortive.

You are, I doubt not, fully certified of the Grounds for the Intelligence we received last Saturday, of the dutiful and generous Resolution of our Neighbours, to engage in supporting his Majesty's Right to the Country, which is at this Time invaded; but I submit to your Consideration, a Letter from the Governor of *Virginia*, confirming it; by that you will learn what Dependence they have on our Disposition to concur with them in an Endeavour, to extinguish at once our Enemy's Hopes of making farther Progress in their ambitious Schemes. This, the Duty of my Station obliges me to conjure you, by your Desire to maintain the Faith and Confidence our Neighbours have in us, by the Honour of the *British* Crown, and the Safety of these Provinces, with the utmost Dispatch to resolve.

H O R °. S H A R P E.

And the following Letter from the Governor of *Virginia*, viz.

S I R,

Williamsburg, February 23, 1754.

I RECEIVED the Favour of your Letter the 10th Current, and observe your Assembly were to meet the 25th, and hope they will chearfully aid the intended Expedition against the Enemies of our Country. I prorogued our Assembly this Day, they have given 10,000 l. this Money, for the Support of his Majesty's Right to the Lands on the *Ohio*, in Consequence thereof, I design immediately to raise five or six Companies of Men, to march to *Will's* Creek with all prudent Expedition, but I dread their being there so soon as I formerly wrote you, but I hope they will be early in *April*, and should be glad your Forces could be there at the same Time.

I have wrote to the *Cherokee* and *Catawba* Nations of *Indians*, to the Southward of this, who some Months ago offered a Body of 1000 of their Warriors to go to the *Ohio*. I have, by Express, ordered their Marching to the *Ohio* to defend their Hunting Grounds, and that they should be supported by Forces from this, which, if they comply with, I am in hopes we shall make some Figure there.

I have thirty Cannon from the Crown, ten whereof I have ordered out to be mounted on the Fort to be erected on the *Ohio*. In *May* next I shall proceed to *Winchester*, to meet the Chiefs of several Nations of *Indians*, and to deliver them a Present from his Majesty.

If I can be of any Service to you or the Colony (happy) under your Command, I shall chearfully receive your Directions, and am, with great Sincerity

Your Excellency's

Most obedient humble Servant,

ROBERT DINWIDDIE.

The inclosed Proclamation will }
be general to all the Forces. }

Which Message and Letter were severally read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Benedict Calvert, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker a Petition of *George Gordon*, late Sheriff of *Frederick* County, praying Leave to bring in a Bill, *To impower the Justices of Frederick County, to assess and levy, on the taxable Persons of the said County, the Sum of 118 l. to enable the said Justices to repay the said George Gordon, the aforesaid Sum by them received from him, and applied to the Use of the said County, &c.* indorsed, " By the Upper House of Assembly, read, and referred to the Consideration of the Lower House of Assembly." Which Petition was here read, and Leave given to bring in a Bill, according to the Petitioner's Prayer.

Richard