

Letter Bk. III £30000 for the King's Use that is for the better Defence of their own Frontiers for as they had brought themselves £10000 in Debt, the Remainder will at the Rate they have expended this last year be sunk on their Frontiers in three or four Months, The Men that were raised for the Defence of that Province have lately made an Attempt on & reduced an Indian Town to the Westward of the Allegany Mountains, & it is said that another Body is marched ag<sup>st</sup> an Indian Town on Beef River, but as no notice is taken of it in the Pens<sup>a</sup> Paper I am afraid the Report is without Foundation. I do not find that any circumstantial Acco<sup>t</sup> of the Siege or Surrendry of Oswego has been yet received, but it seems the Intelligence concerning the Garrison's being put to the Sword is without foundation tho Gov<sup>r</sup> Dinwiddie has thought proper to mention it in his Speech to the Virg<sup>a</sup> Assembly as an indisputable fact. In a Lett<sup>r</sup> that I have lately received from S<sup>r</sup> John S<sup>t</sup> Clair he tells me that unless the Enemy are very strong indeed he apprehends they cannot attempt any thing more this Season to the Northward with probability of Success but whether Lord Loudoun & all the Regular & Provincial Troops are to remain on the Defensive only he does not say tho I am apt to think that will be the Case as we hear nothing of their being in Motion. We have not for a Month or Six Weeks been at all disturbed by the Heathen (as our people call them) but they have paid the Virginians another Visit & invested Fort Dinwiddie a Stoccade in Augusta County, Col<sup>o</sup> Washington is marched from Winchester to it's Relief but I doubt not the Enemy will have reduced the place or given over their Enterprize long before he can come up with them. So much for general news. I am now to communicate to you something that more particularly relates to myself & to desire Your good Offices in case a Set of People whom I have some reason to suspect should think proper to become my Enemies; You may remember that I told you in a former Letter that the Roman Catholicks were much dissatisfied at my having assented to the Act for granting a Supply of £40000 for His Majesty's Service because it imposes a double Tax on the Lands of all Persons of that persuasion, They are I find determined to apply to His Ldp or the King in Council for Relief, & to remonstrate by what I can find ag<sup>st</sup> my Conduct in assenting to the Bill, in an Extract of a Lett<sup>r</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Calvert herewith sent you will see what induced me to do so & I cannot but think such Reasons will justify my Conduct. They have given out that one of my Brothers has engaged to espouse their Cause & to get the Act dissented to, but as you have never given me a Hint to that purport I am inclined to think they speak in such a manner with a Design to render me more suspected of favouring them than I am already: If they had