

Whitehall 30: Dec.^r 1757.

U. H. J.
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His Majesty having Nothing more at Heart than to repair the Losses and Disappointments of the last inactive and unhappy Campaign and by the most vigorous and extensive Efforts to avert by the Blessing of God on his Arms the Dangers impending on North America, and not doubting but all his faithful and brave Subjects here will cheerfully cooperate with and second to the utmost the large Expence, and extraordinary Succours supplied by this Kingdom for their Preservation and Defence, and his Majesty considering that the several Provinces from Pensilvania inclusive to the Southward are well able with proper Encouragements to furnish a Body of several thousand Men to join the Kings Forces in those Parts for some offensive Operations against the Enemy, and his Majesty not judging it expedient to limit the Zeal and Ardour of any of his Provinces by making a Repartition of the Forces to be raised by each respectively for this most important Service, I am commanded to signify to you the King's Pleasure that you do forthwith use your utmost Endeavours and Influence with the Council and Assembly of your Province to induce them to raise with all possible Dispatch as large a Body of Men within your Government as the Number and Situation of its Inhabitants may allow, and forming the same into Regiments as far as shall be found convenient, that you do direct them to hold themselves in Readiness as early as may be, to march to the Rendezvous at such Place or Places as may be named for that Purpose by Brigadier General Forbes appointed to command his Majesty's Forces in those Parts, in Order to proceed from thence in conjunction with a Body of his Majesty's British Forces, and under the supreme Command of Brigadier Forbes appointed as above, so as to be in a Situation to begin by the first of may (if possible) or as soon after as shall be any way practicable such offensive Operations as shall be judged by the said Commander of his Majesty's Forces in those Parts most expedient for annoying the Enemy, and most efficacious towards removing and repelling the Dangers that threaten the Frontiers of any of the Southern Colonies on the Continent of America, and the better to facilitate the important Service the King is pleased to leave it to you to issue Commissions to such Gentlemen of your Province as you shall judge from their Weight and Credit with the People and their Zeal for the public Service may be best disposed and enabled to quicken and effectuate the speedy levying of the greatest Number of Men, in the Dispositions of which Commissions I am persuaded you will have Nothing in View but the good of the King's Service, and a due Subordination of the whole when joined to his Majesty's Commander, and all Officers of the Provincial Forces as high as Colonels inclusive are to have Rank according to their several respective Comm.^{ns} in like Manner as is already given by his Majesty's Regulations to the Captains of Provincial Troops in America.

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