

Francis Fauquier to George Washington, September 16, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM THE HON. GOVERNOR FAUQUIER.¹

WILLMSBURGH Sepr. 16th. 1758

SR.

I am obliged to you for the particular Acct. you have sent me of the State of our Affairs, wch. I recd by Jenkins on the 9th. with Mr. Gists Letter (by Wch. it appears he is not very solicitous to make such a Return) and a Copy of your Correspondence wth. Coll. Bouquet: All Wch. tend to corroborate the Opinion we had before entertain'd of your Zeal for the Service of this Colony. I have not returned Coll. Bouquet's Letter, as the Assembly Wch. are not convened may perhaps call for it: but it shall be returned to you whenever you desire it.

Since it is determined to go by Loyal hanning, I hope the Difficulties attending that Road are not so great as apprehended, that the Army may reach Fort Du Quesne this year; otherwise I much fear whether the Ardor this Colony has shewn to support the War will continue for another Year, the Flame being a little stifled by the inactivity of this Campaign. But one glorious stroke will reanimate us. My Interest here can yet be of no Consideration, yet I will use my Endeavours wth. the Assembly that our Troops may not be weaken'd for another year but I much doubt of my Success.

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The Treasury is exhausted and I cannot yet say what the assembly will do to replenish it. Arrears must undoubtedly be paid; and you may be assured the first Money that comes there shall be applied to the Payment of the Army, that they may not have any Room for Discontent from that Quarter.

I have directed the Letters I have recd from you and Coll. Byrd to be laid before the Assembly as you will see by my Speech² Wch. I send your herewith, and must wait their pleasure in Relation to the Major of Brigade, as I have it not in my power to issue such a Commission the number of Officers being limited by the last Act of Assembly by Wch. the second Regiment was raised. I shall always recommend it to them, to let you have everything that is necessary for the Service.

I have detained Jenkins till the House of Burgesses have taken the affair of the Regiments into Consideration and voted their Subsistence, for all the Money before granted was exhausted. I hope your Men are not uneasy but it was impossible for me to provide for their pay before. Mr. Boyd may have £5000 whenever he pleases to come or send for it as I have wrote to him this Day.

We are impatient to have frequent News from your Quarter in the present Situation of Affairs.

I amSr. Wth. great Esteem Yr. Very Hum. Sert. FRAN. FAUQUIER Sepr. 29th.

1 Francis Fauquier, appointed Lieutenant-Governor to succeed Dinwiddie, February 10, 1758, arrived in the colony in June following; died March 3, 1768. — Brock.

2 GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL, MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES, I have deferred calling you together as long as the exigencies of Government would permit me, being desirous of accommodating your particular Affairs to the Concerns of the Public, as much as possible; and if these had not demanded it I should not have given you this Trouble now, merely to notify you, in this Place, His Majesty's Appointment of me to succeed to the Honorable Robert Dinwiddie, Esq.; as Lieutenant-Governor of this his Colony and Dominion of Virginia, an Honor and Trust conferred on me to which it behoves me to pay the greatest Attention and Regard. That I may, in some Measure, merit this Honor, and answer to this Confidence which His Majesty has most graciously been pleased to repose in me: it becomes equally my indispensable Duty to provide for the Prosperity and Well-being of this Colony, and to promote the Honor and Dignity of His Majesty and the Crown of Great-Britain in all its Branches and Appendages. If I, on my Part, steadily pursue the First, I make not

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the least Doubt, from the many great and recent Proofs you have given of your Fidelity and unshaken Loyalty, but that you, on your Parts, will heartily and chearfully concur with me in all Measures which may tend to establish and strengthen the Last. It is my earnest Wish that a perfect Harmony may at all Times subsist between us: and to this Purpose it shall be my constant Endeavour to consult the Happiness of the People committed to my Charge, by taking Care that effectual and speedy Justice be rendered to all His Majesty's Subjects in Virginia, as far as in me lies; and by all other means which may conduce to that desirable End. But whatever Assurances I may give of my future Conduct, I am very sensible that I shall be judged of by my Actions: These are the Tests by which you, as reasonable Men, will form your Opinion of me, and will hereafter either give me, or withhold from me your Confidence. To this Test I hope I shall always be willing to submit. By Letters I have lately received from the Army, which I have ordered to be laid before you, it is doubtful whether the great End of our Wishes can be obtained this Year, but the Operations of this Campaign tend at least to prepare Matters for an early Attack the next. Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses, The Part you have so nobly taken in the present War, by granting the large Sums of Money you have done in Support of His Majesty's Arms, and the common Cause, has given great Satisfaction, and is worthy the Imitation of our neighbouring Colonies; but sorry am I to say, that the Sums already given, great as they are, are insufficient for the Purposes for which they were designed, and for the Services actually entered upon, and more will be necessary to make good the Deficiencies now subsisting from the Expences already incurred: I am confident that the bare mentioning these Circumstances will be a sufficient Inducement to you to have the greatest Attention to the Distresses of our Country; and I hope that what is necessary to be raised, will be done in the Manner the least burdensome possibly to the People. Gentlemen of the Council, and of the House of Burgesses, I would not willingly detain you long at this Time, yet my Inclinations to serve this Colony are so ardent that I cannot help recommending one Thing to you, which, from the many Representations that have already been made to me (short as the Time is since my Arrival here) appears to me to demand and merit your most serious Consideration, and in our present Situation not to admit of the least Delay, as the Defence of the Colony, the Protection of the Property, nay the very Lives of our People depend upon it; I mean the Revisal of the Militia Law, which, notwithstanding the many Alternations it has undergone, and Amendments it has received, still wants some great Regulations to make its Use for the Defence of the Colony bear some Proportion to the Expence it creates. The Letters which I have received on this Subject, and my Answers to them, shall be ready to be laid before you whenever you shall call for the same. Unanimity and Despatch give Vigor to all public Resolutions; on this Account I earnestly recommend them to you, and they will also most assuredly bring with them the additional Pleasure of your being able, by their Means, to return the sooner to your respective Counties, where your Presence, if not necessary will certainly, be acceptable.