HIS EXCELLENCY

COLONEL WILLIAM DENNY

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA, &C.

BORN 1709         DIED 1765

FROM THE PAINTING BY GEORGE Knapton, 1744
IN THE COLLECTION OF THE SOCIETY OF DILETTANTI, LONDON
MEMOIR OF HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL WILLIAM DENNY, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA, ETC.

BY REV. H. L. L. DENNY, M.A., F.S.G.,

Colonel William Denny belonged to an ancient East-Anglian family, which could claim kinship with some of those who, in "the spacious days of great Elizabeth," played a chief part in laying the foundations of the Anglo-Saxon empires beyond the seas, "men whose names ring across the ages like a trumpet-blast in the ears of Englishmen"—and, indeed, of all the members of the English-speaking peoples—"to this day." He was the son of the Rev. Hill Denny, whose

1 "Sir Walter Raleigh," by Martin A. S. Hume. Raleigh was the first adventurer to plant a colony on the shores of Pennsylvania. His step-brother, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, is said to have been the first to sail from England on a colonizing expedition to America, in 1583 (E. S. Payne's "Voyages of Elizabethan Seamen to America"). Amongst the Denny family pictures there are portraits of Joan, Lady Denny, aunt of Raleigh and Gilbert, of their first-cousin, Sir Edward Denny, and of Raleigh's kinswoman, Margaret, Lady Denny, the two first displaying a strong likeness to Raleigh. It was for reinforcements under the command of Sir Edward Denny that Lord Thomas Howard was waiting, at Flores in the Azores, when there took place the famous fight, "one against fifty-three," of Sir Richard Grenville (Raleigh's cousin), described by Raleigh and in Tennyson's "The Revenge." Sir Edward sailed with Raleigh and Gilbert, and did good service at the time of the Spanish Armada.
portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller shows him as "a pretty boy" of some sixteen summers, which age he would have attained in 1694. Hill Denny was educated at Sidney College, Cambridge, graduating B.A. in 1698 and M.A. in 1707. He became Rector of Gilston and of Eastwick, Hertfordshire, in 1705, and also of Little Parndon, Essex, in 1710, which livings he held up to the time of his death. He was buried at Little Parndon, March 31, 1719.

Hill Denny married, at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, October 29, 1702, Abigail Berners, then aged nineteen, daughter of James Berners, Esq. (died 1692) and Mary, his wife, of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.

William Denny, who was born March 9, 1709, and baptised at Eastwick the same day, was the only surviving son of the marriage. To him his father left all his free and copyhold lands, tenements, etc., in the parishes of Great Waltham, Essex, and Spaldwick, Barham, Easton and Stow, Hunts, and all his estate and goods. The latter would have included the following interesting articles, known as "The Royal Presents to the Dennys":—a pair of gloves, with great gauntletts worked with pearls and gold, given by Henry VIII to Sir Anthony Denny; a pair of gloves given by James I to Edward Denny, Earl of Norwich; a pair of velvet gloves or mittens given by Queen Elizabeth to Margaret, Lady Denny\(^2\); the scarf, about eight feet long

\(^2\) Other descendants of Margaret, Lady Denny, have inherited from her other Royal presents, viz.: a large silver urn cup, a fan, etc., given by Queen Elizabeth, a Bible bound in richly embroidered green satin, given by James I, and a letter of protection, in his own hand-writing, which Charles I gave Lady Denny when he visited her at her manor-house at Bishops Stortford during the Civil War. The old manor-house of Bishops Stortford still stands, very much the same, internally, as it was in the days of its builder, the Hon. Margaret, Lady Denny, who, before her death in 1648, aged eighty-eight years and in the forty-eighth year of her widowhood, was "probably the sole survivor of that brilliant ring of fair women and brave men which encircled the throne of the last of the Tudors." The set of horse furniture, in
and four broad, richly embroidered in colours, which Charles I wore at Edgehill, where he presented it to Adam Hill, (Hill Denny’s grandfather) who had preserved the King’s life by gallantly rallying his troop of horse at a critical moment in the battle. William Denny must have given or sold these to the Earl of Arran, at the sale of whose collection in 1759 they were bought by Sir Thomas Denny of Tralee Castle, then head of the family, for nearly £100. They were accompanied by an account of them, written by Hill Denny, and a Patent granting a pension to Adam Hill, who had been a Page to James I, for his life and that of his wife.

William Denny, whose education had been entrusted under his father’s will to the Rev. Edward Hinton and the Rev. Joseph Harvey, matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, at the age of seventeen, May 24, 1726, and graduated B.A. January 20, 1730. It is probable that on leaving the University he travelled for some time on the Continent, doing the “grand tour” after the fashion of the day. In 1734 some gentlemen who had travelled in Italy formed themselves into a society for encouraging at home the taste for those artistic objects which had contributed so greatly to their enjoyment abroad. Ultimately, in December 1735, they founded the Society of Dilettanti, which did so much towards awakening interest in the arts of the ancients. The name of William Denny occurs in the first entry in the Minute Books, and many times subsequently.

velvet and gold, which Margaret Edgcumbe used when she accompanied her Royal mistress on her progresses, is in possession of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe. The chancel of Bishops Stortford Church is full of Denny monuments and shields of arms.

* Rowland Hill, originator of the penny post, was of Adam Hill’s family, “the Hills of Ternhill.” Adam Hill had a brother Rowland.

* King George IV borrowed this scarf from Sir Edward Denny, 3rd Bt., in order to have made a china table-service adorned with its pattern at Chamberlain’s factory, Worcester.

* See Disraeli’s “Curiosities of Literature,” under “Gloves.”

* “Historical Notices of the Society of Dilettanti.”
probably at one of the meetings of the preliminary society, in January 1735, that he was, with some other gentlemen (including Lord Middlesex, Lord John Murray, Lord Boyne, Lord Harcourt, and Sir James Grey), the victim of a murderous assault in "The Golden Lion," in Suffolk Street, London. The cause of this "Suffolk Street riot" and the details are obscure, but it "made much noise" at the time, so much so that an engraving was produced of it.\(^7\)

As was customary for the members, William Denny presented the Society of Dilettanti with a portrait of himself, in Roman dress, by George Knapton, 1744. This painting now hangs in the Society's collection at the Grafton Galleries, London.\(^8\) William Denny had entered the army at this time, and it is possible that he served at Dettingen in 1743 and against "the Young Pretender" in "the '45."

In a will, dated 1743, Sir Thomas Denny of Tralee Castle leaves his estates in remainder to his "dearly beloved cousin William Denny, of Cheshunt, Herts," now or lately a Cornet in the Duke of Montague's Regiment of Horse." In a subsequent will, dated 1746, Sir Thomas appoints "Captain William Denny of Cheshunt" guardian of his children.

Lord Middlesex\(^10\) and the Rev. Dr. Ayscough\(^11\) cor-

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\(^8\) This portrait of Col. Denny is reproduced herewith (from a photograph of D. Macbeth, 17, Fleet Street, London) by the courteous permission of the Society of Dilettanti.

\(^9\) William Denny's residence at this time may have been "The Great House," a remarkable Tudor edifice, which still stands on the outskirts of the town of Cheshunt. Built and occupied by Cardinal Wolsey, it was granted, after his fall, by Henry VIII to Sir Thomas Denny of Cheshunt, brother of the Right Hon. Sir Anthony Denny.

\(^10\) Afterwards Duke of Dorset.

\(^11\) Tutor to Prince George, afterwards King George III.
responded with William Denny, apparently about some political matters upon which he and they were engaged, in 1747.  

In May, 1756, William Denny was appointed to the position of Lieutenant-Governor of Pennsylvania. On May 17 King George II in Council approved of his appointment, upon the nomination of Thomas and Richard Penn, Esquires, Proprietaries of the Province, and the next day William Denny was created a Lieutenant-Colonel in the army, for "America only." William Denny, sailed from Plymouth, England, on the ship-of-war Stirling Castle, 70 guns, Capt. Cornish, convoy to thirteen transports, to succeed Robert Hunter Morris, as Deputy Governor of Pennsylvania, and after an uneventful voyage, arrived at New York, August 16, 1756.

Preparatory to sailing for America, he wrote the following letter to Thomas Penn, Esq.:

Sir

I have had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 29th inst, with the inclosed to Mr Hockley. The wind is South East, and the transports are expected round. I am told it is probable, we shall not sail till some days after their arrival here, and it is to be hoped, the ship with the cannon will be time enough to have the benefit of the convoy.

Mr Aiskil will be so good as to desire Mr Barclay to pay the carriage of my goods by water from Oxfordshire, and the carts &c. The same Gentlemen will please to insure some things I have here for £400, such as plate, cloaths, linen &c. I shall take them on board the Sterling Castle with me. I could wish the furniture from Oxfordshire, and the goods brought by Mr Farmbrough from Brook Street were also insured for £800 more.

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20 In this month began the Seven Years War, in which George Washington gained his military experience.
22 The Army List, 1760-65.
Memoir of Colonel William Denny.

Excuse my giving you this trouble. With my compliments to Lady Juliana, I am

Sir,
Your very affectionate friend
and most obedient
humble servant
William Denny

Portsmouth
June 1st
1756
I have received your Brother's letters.

To
Thomas Penn Esq.

The Pennsylvania Gazette of Thursday, August 26th., prints the following account of the reception and ceremonies accorded him, on his arrival at Philadelphia:

"On Thursday last [19th.] a number of Gentlemen set out from this City in order to meet the Honorable William Denny Esq. our new Governor, on his journey here from New York. They met him at Trenton and were received by him in a very genteel manner. The next morning [20th.,] he set off for Bristol, where Mr. Morris our late Governor, the Council and other Gentlemen were waiting for him. After a short Stay there, his Honor and the Company proceeded on their way to Town, and was received near the line of this County by Colonel Douché of the Philadelphia County Regiment, with his Officers and a Company of Grenadiers, who escorted him from thence to the City. When they came near Frankford, they were joined by Part of the Troop of Horse, and Company of Independents, and a great number of the Inhabitants of the place.

"Before the Governor entered the Town, as many of the City Regiments, as the shortness of the Notice would admit of, were got together and drawn up in Second street, near the Church, where they received him with raised Firelocks, and the Officers gave him the proper Salutes. He then went to his House [on South Second street], and staid there some Time, during which the Regiment was drawn up on both Sides of Market street
from the Court House to the corner of Front street, the Artillery Company betwixt Market and Water streets; the Grenadiers of the Philadelphia County Regiment on Second street betwixt the Court House and the Church, and the Horse and Independents about the Court House.

"His Honor then came to the Court House accompanied by our late Governor, the members of Council, and many other Gentlemen, when his Commission was read; after which the Guns of the Associate Battery, of the Artillery Company, of the Privateer Denny, and some other Vessels were fired off; the City Regiments made three General Discharges; the Vessels in the Harbour shewed their Colors; the Bells were set a Ringing; Bonfires were lytted; and a general Joy appeared in the countenances of People of all Denominations.

"The next day [Saturday, 21st.] his Honour and many of the principal Inhabitants, were genteely entertained by the Corporation of the City at the Lodge Room [Masonic Lodge, in Lodge Alley], and on Monday [23rd.] a handsome Dinner was provided by the Assembly at the State House. [Cost £100.13.6.], at which were present His Honour the Governor, the Officers Civic and Military in the City, the Clergy, and Sundry Gentlemen Strangers.

"Yesterday [Wednesday, 25th.] His Honour the Governor set out for New Castle, in order to have his Commission for that Government published. He was accompanied by our late Governor, with sundry other Gentlemen, and escorted out of Town by the Colonel and Militia Officers of this City."

Governor Denny also received "Addresses from the General Assembly, through Isaac Norris, Speaker, Mayor William Plumsted, on behalf of the City Corporations; Provost William Smith for the College and Academy; Pastors, Elders, and members of the English
Presbyterian Churches in Philadelphia; Monthly Meetings of Friends, through James Pemberton, Clerk; Benjamin Franklin, in behalf of the Managers and Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Hospital; Officers of Col. Jacob Duche's Regiment; Col. Benjamin Franklin for his Regiment and Company of Artillery; and the Officers of the Troops and other associated Companies: to all of which he made replies.

On January 26, 1757 he wrote from Philadelphia to Mrs. Abigail Edwin (daughter of Sir Roger Hill) his wife's aunt, as follows:—

"I have had full employment since my arrival here. . . . They [the people in Pennsylvania] are divided into parties, violent and obstinate beyond imagination. . . . Business has given me leave to make some excursions this Autumn to the frontiers, and I have travelled between four and five hundred miles. It was my duty to visit the Forts, and put them in the best posture of defence, to review the Provincial troops, and to encourage the inhabitants to take arms in order to defend themselves and all that is dear to them. I also assisted at an Indian Treaty, where the foundation was laid of making a large body of the enemies become our friends. The King, Queen, and all the Royal family with their Councillors left us in good humor; they were loaded with presents. The Queen was at a distance in this province when I came, and, Mrs Denny will smile to hear, she sent love to me on my arrival, and that she would come and see me when her husband had returned from a journey he had taken into the Indian country.

This great Province, or rather little Kingdom, is very fertile and well watered. There is too much wood. The extent of the Colony is at least 200 miles square, not reckoning the three lower Counties, who have an Assembly of their own, but the same Governor.

Philadelphia is a fine city, situate in the centre of the British Dominions on this Continent, and is built on the west side of the river Delaware, a mile and a half in length and half a mile in the greatest breadth. There are about 2500 houses, and near 18,000 inhabitants. An elderly lady is still living who remembers the building of the first house, and we have no modern instance of a great city being built in so short a time, except Petersburgh. The public edifices are much beyond what might be expected. The great and cross streets are all straight and there is a convenient brick pavement on each side of the way for those who walk on foot. The river near a mile broad and navigable for ships of 5 or 600 tons."

This letter and others concerning the Dennys, including one from Richard Hockley, Keeper of the Great Seal under Governor Denny, are in possession of Col. B. I. Way, of Denham Place.
At the instance of the Proprietors, in October of 1759, Gov. Denny was recalled.

William Denny's large armorial book-plate—a rare and interesting specimen of its kind—has been claimed as being American, so that copies are probably extant in the United States.

In 1761–64 Col. Denny was serving on various committees of the Society of Dilettanti.

William Denny married (but when and where have not been ascertained), Mary, only daughter of William Hill, second son of Sir Roger Hill of Denham Place, Bucks. By her, who remarried in 1769 a Mr. Corbyn, of Pinner, Middlesex, he apparently had no issue.

Colonel Denny died, aged fifty-six, in the latter part of 1765.

His will, dated May 25, 1765, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, January 16, 1766, by the executors named, William Berners of Woolverstone Hall, Suffolk, and Henry Berners of Sackville Street, St. James's, London. He is described in it as 'William Denny, now of Saint James' in the Liberty of Westminster, Esquire.' He mentions messuages, etc., in the Province of Pennsylvania. To William Denny of Tralee Castle, (son and heir of Sir Thomas Denny, and probably Col. Denny's godson) he leaves fifty guineas and all the portraits of his family; to William Berners all

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"Burke's "Landed Gentry," 1849, p. 1540, under the family of Way of Denham. There is a letter at Denham Place from Thomas Penn to Lewis Way, informing him that Mrs. Denny had sailed from England to join her husband in Pennsylvania.

There is apparently no record of his burial in the registers of those parishes in which one would expect to find it—St. James's, Piccadilly, St. George's, Hanover Square, or St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London.

Reference "10, Tyndall."

These Denny portraits, or some of them, were pictures by Sir Godfrey Kneller of Peter and Anne Denny and their son Hill. The picture of Hill Denny was presented to the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, by the late Sir Edward Denny, Bt., in 1882. Shortly before Sir Edward's death, in 1889, the portraits of Peter and Anne Denny

In *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, October 25, 1770, an advertisement appeared of the sale at Public Vendue, at the London Coffee House, Philadelphia, of the country seat of Col. Denny, near the Falls of Schuylkill, containing forty-four acres and a good dwelling-house, stable for six horses, etc, the executor being Joseph Galloway, a well-known Loyalist of Pennsylvania.

As no review of Governor Denny’s administration in Pennsylvania was contemplated in the preparation of this memoir, at the suggestion of the writer, the following letters selected from the “Penn Papers,” in the Manuscript Division of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, have been added. The Society has also a copy of “The Address of the Trustees and Treasurer of the Friendly Association for regaining and preserving Peace with the Indians by Pacific Measures,” signed by Abel James, Clerk, and dated “the 14th of the Seventh Month 1757, to the Governor. Some account of the controversy between the Governor and the Assembly, by William Franklin, will be found in the “Gentleman’s Magazine” of September 1757, Vol. XXVII pp. 417, 418, 419, 420.

*Governor Denny to Thomas Penn.*

Philadelphia 4th November 1756

Sir,

I acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 12th July last, Original and Duplicate. The Repeals of the two Acts were, as usual, entered in the Council Book, and sent to the House, to be put on their Minutes, and then, they were published, as you desire, in the Gazette.

I have conferred with Mr. Wilson & Mr. Hunt, who are disposed to reconcile all differences, and promote the Publick Service.

were stolen from his house in London by a person who actually tried soon afterwards to sell them to one of the family. They eventually passed into the hands of a dealer, who sold them to the late Sir Walter Gilbey, and they are now in the possession of the latter’s daughter, Mrs. Routledge, of the Chantry, Bishops Stortford, a house which is said to have been partially built by Peter Denny.
I found the Assembly sitting, when I arrived here, which was on the 20th August, and I took the earliest Opportunity, after I had informed myself of the State of the Province to press them to the most vigorous measures for the Defence of the Country, in Consequence of which, they sent me a Message, desiring a Sight of the Proprietary Instructions, relating to the raising of Money, with which, I willingly complied, imagining they would have conformed to them, in the Supply Bills: but I soon found myself mistaken, for they sent me up a Bill granting £60,000, by the usual Excise, which they extended to twenty Years, and after appropriating a very large part, almost the whole Sum, they placed the disposition of the Residue solely in the Assembly; which after Conferences with a Committee of the House, I rejected, declining, agreeable to your Instructions any further disputes in Writing and saying, I would give my reasons to his Majesty, for so doing, but as another Bill has been presented for £30,000, and is passed, and an Exemplification thereof sent, by this Conveyance, It may be thought unnecessary to trouble the Ministers with them. The Resolves of the House, which were put into the Gazette without my knowledge, shew you their Temper, with respect to a Land Tax according to your Instructions; and as we could not agree on a method of Taxation, and they were, besides, unwilling, at the close of the Sessions, to grant a general Excise, or Stamp Duty, which I recommended to some of their Members, in a private Conference: Under these Circumstances, there was a necessity for passing this last Act, for Ten Years, the Arrears due to the Troops being above a third of the Money, and if the Payment of these had been deferred, any longer, they were determined to disband themselves, which would have left the Frontiers to the discretion of the Enemy.

Finding a short Vacancy before the time of Meeting of the Assembly, after the General Election of their Numbers, I went to the Frontiers, on the West side of Susquahannah, taking with me an Engineer of the Royal Americans, who had leave to attend me, at my request.

Mr Morris, before my Arrival, had consorted with the Commissioners, an Expedition against an Indian Delaware Town, called Kittannin, situate on the Ohio, the place where resided King Chingas and Captain Jacobs, the two heads of the Delaware Enemy Indians—The Party consisting of Three hundred Men, taken from the Provincial Forces, posted in the several Garrisons on the Western Frontiers, was commanded by Colonel Armstrong, and he having the singular good fortune to make a long March, of One hundred and fifty Miles unobserved by the Enemy Indians, fell upon the Town, by surprise, and burned it and killed Captain Jacobs and several other Principal Indians In the Town were some large Magazines of Goods, Ammunition and Provisions, lately received from the French, which were all consumed in the Fire, the whole is set forth in a Letter, wrote to me by Colonel Armstrong, which is Copied, and put up in the Box, and by which you will see that had it not been for some trifling Accidents, they stood a good Chance to have made a general slaughter of the Indians, and taken
many prisoners, and I must do Colonel Armstrong, who I understand is one of the Proprietary Agents and Surveyors, the Justice to say, he conducted the matters with great skill and Prudence, and his Personal Behaviour deserves the thanks of his Country, the Proprietaries and Government. Fort Shirly was the place of Rendezvous for the Forces, engaged in the Expedition to meet at from the several Posts whence they were draughted. at setting out by order of the Colonel, the Gates were taken off, finding the Fort untenable and of no further use, the Inhabitants of Shurmans Valley, having entirely abandoned their Plantations, for whose Protection it was Built and left it open, without any Garrison, and on the Report of Colonel Armstrong made to me at Carlisle, and with the advice of the Commissioners, I have ordered it to be destroyed, as being at too great a distance from the present Inhabitants, and of no real service, in the Defence of the Frontiers.

The other Forts are ordered to be put on the best footing, the nature of their Situation, and other Circumstances, woud admit of, Wells are directed to be sunk, in every Fort, and Ditches made where it is not Rocky and the blowing with Gunpowder is said to be too expensive. Particularly, at Fort Augusta, a good Ditch Pallisades with a Covered Way and Glacis.

I am going to Easton, to meet the Indians, and, if possible will visit the other Forts, on the East side of Susquehannah, with the same Engineer, and if Business prevents my going, he shall nevertheless be sent.

The Assembly sat on the fourteenth of October, as usual and having received Letters from Lord Loudon, communicating his Majesty's Commands, in several Articles of Expense, relating, as well to the Forces he has been graciously pleased to send for the defence of his American Colonies, as the new Levies, he has ordered to be made to compleat the Royal American Regiment. I recommended to the Assembly, in the strongest Terms to raise the Supplies for the Services demanded; and, tho they have been sitting ever since, I have not received any Supply Bills, from them. The Messages, which have passed between us are sent by this and the east Ship, and will shew these several Matters in their true Light.

As his Majesty has been pleased to commit the Sole management of Indian Affairs, exclusive of his Governors and Governments, in these parts, to Sir William Johnson, it is particularly unfortunate that this was not communicated sooner, but as these Indians are actually come, in consequence of an Invitation, made, and measures taken by Governor Morris, I have, by the unanimous advice of the Council and Assembly, to my very great mortification, consented to meet the Indians, tho when I see them I can do no more than give them a good reception, express a general regard for them, advise them to Peaceable measures, with all His Majesty's Subjects, preserve them in their present good dispositions, and refer them to Sir William Johnson, as to any further matters, they shall have to propose.

I wish, I could say the Assembly was not determined to comply with
your Instructions, relating to a Land Tax. This seems to me, to be the greatest Obstacle, to the Supplies. I have offered to transmit to you, any Proposals, they have, on that Subject, and further hinted your generous gift of £5000, and hoped, they would exempt you, from a Land Tax, for the Current Year, on that Account, and before the Service of the next, this great Affair might be amicably Settled in England, to your and their Satisfaction; but these measures were not complied with. I have since, mentioned to some of them, that a Clause might be inserted in a Land Tax Bill, to defer the Taxing your Estate, this Year, and, when the Method of Taxing shall be adjusted, then, you are to pay your Quota, of this Years Tax, according to the Proportion, that shall be settled, by which means the Rights of neither, are given up, you only incur a debt for such Tax, and the Publick Service will not be impeded, In my Conversation with M'r Wilson and M'r Hunt, on this Subject, I have communicated to them these Sentiments, and as they appear'd to Concur with me, in Opinion I pressed them to use their Interest that this intricate Affair might be put upon that footing.

It is with pain, that I am obliged to inform you, that the Back Inhabitants continue to quit their Plantations, owing to the want of a Militia Law, which, as I have repeatedly pressed on the Assembly, I hope they will offer me such an one as I can pass, with honour, and Justice to the rights of the Crown, tho I am told they will insist on the Peoples Choice of the Officers, or, at least, that they shall be recommended by the Assembly.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant

William Denny

I shall write to General Napier by the packet, and beg my compliments to Lady Juliana.

Governor Denny to Thomas Penn.

Philadelphia 8th April 1757.

Sir,

I now sit down to give you a regular Detail of what has passed since my last. When I consider this was wrote so long ago as the 4th November, I am afraid you will think me negligent, but really I cou'd have no satisfaction in writing, till I knew the Result of the Assembly in the several Articles laid before them, my measures depending thereon and this was delayed, tho' every Day impatiently expected, till the Embargo took place which deprived me of Opportunities.

I shall first begin with Indian Affairs. The Conferences at Easton, where I was preparing to go at the Time of writing my last Letter, were carried on with all the Care and Dispatch possible, and Copies of the Minutes put on board the Packet on the 25th November, then
ready to sail, but detained by Lord Loudoun till the latter end of
December. These no doubt are long ago come to your Hands, and
will have afforded you Satisfaction in every Article except that of
the Indian Complaints against the Proprietaries. It being frequently
surmised to me that the Delaware Indians [illegible—rubbed] on Ac-
count of Injuries done to them both by this and the [illegible—rubbed] in
their Transactions with them for Lands, and they never would be
brought to make a firm and Lasting Peace, till these Uneasinesses were
removed, I conceived it my Duty to press them to open themselves
to me with the utmost Freedom on this Head promising them a fair
hearing and my best endeavours to obtain for them a full Redress, if
their Complaints shou'd appear to be just, and on doing it you see
they have laid an heavy Charge on the Proprietaries.

Lieutenant Colonel Weiser the Provincial Interpreter declared in
Council, the Commissioners present, that the Indian Pumpshire, Teedy-
usung's Delaware Interpreter, informed him some white People in
Town were perpetually putting things into the Heads of the Indians
respecting their pretended Complaints. I had at first charged M* Weiser and him not to interpret any Thing that shoud be said to the
Indians without my Permission, & the Centries who were posted to
guard them had Orders not to suffer any white People to speak to
them.—Yet as almost all the Delawares speak English, and Teedyusung
we know does, he and some of the principal Indians went frequently
to Peoples Houses, and might converse with whom they pleased. One
Morning in particular the Delaware Chief with one of his Councillors
and the Interpreter Pumpshire was observed by M* Weiser to go into
the House where some of the principal Philadelphia Quakers lodged
and informing M* Peters of it he immediately went there & found it
to be true, of which he informed me, & I likewise made it publick.

M*. Peters at my Instance has given you a particular Relation of
what passed and is in hopes to receive your Answer time enough for
his Conduct at the ensuing Treaty, where it is expected the Indians
will endeavour to prove their Charges. In the Mean time a Com-
mittee of Council is appointed to examine the Indian Deeds, Treaties,
Minutes of Council and Minutes of Property and their Examination
will be reported to me in Council, from whence a proper Defence will
be made against any Charges that shall be made against you.

Agreeable to your request in one of your Letters to M*. Peters, that
whatever passes between this Government and the Indians may be
instantly communicated to Sir William Johnson, either by me or him,
I did not fail at my first coming to write to that Gentleman, informing
him of my Appointment to the Government of this Province, desiring
his Assistance and Advice as to my Conduct in Indian Affairs, promising
to give him particular Accounts of Intelligence, or any other
Matters as they shou'd occur, and requesting the same favour on his Part: I had the honour of receiving a polite Answer from him,
wherein he is pleased to assure me of his Correspondence, Assistance
& Service. Since that Copies of the Indian Conferences at Easton
were sent by me to Sir William Johnson with a Letter on the Subject, which he was so good as to answer, approving what was then done, & recommending Mr. Croghan to me as the Person deputed by him, with the Approbation of Lord Loudoun to negotiate Indian Affairs within this Province & elsewhere. His Commission and Instructions to Mr. Croghan were laid before the Council, and Assembly: and Copies sent to you. In Pursuance of these Powers Mr. Croghan dispatched in my Name a Message to the Delaware Chief Teedyuscung pressing to come here with all the dispatch possible, that the Business with him might be finished time enough to admit the Indians to join his Majesty's Forces at the Beginning of the Campaign. Other Messengers were sent to the Ohio, to sound the Shawanese and Delawares in those Parts and if found to be of a good Disposition, then they were instructed to hint to them that if they would lay down the Hatchet, and depute some of their principal Indians to the Treaty to be held in the Spring with Teedyuscung, they would not meet with a disagreeable Reception, or something to that Effect. Sir William informed by Mr. Croghan of these Steps, and approving them dispatched a Deputation of the Six Nations to attend and assist at the Treaty: tho' they were few at first setting out, yet on their Journey they increased to above One hundred and fifty, and are now at Conestoga under the Care of Mr. Croghan waiting for Teedyuscung. A Message is come from him informing me of his good Disposition & Intentions to treat, and bring with him a Large Number of Indians, and desiring a Supply of Provisions on their Journey, which was complied with. He likewise gave me Intelligenc that the French sent six of their People and four Indians to view the Fort at Shamokin, and that they were returned with two Scalps which they said were Scalps of two of the Out Centinels of Fort Augusta. True it is that two were killed & scalped, but by what Indians, it was never discovered till this Account came from Teedyuscung. Having thrown together all that occurs on the Subject of Indians, I shall now go on to mention my Proceedings with the Assembly. It gave me no small Concern to think that the publick business was interrupted by my Journey to Easton. I hoped however that upon my Return the Assembly wou'd not fail to dispa [bound in] the Sundry Things laid before them and it lookt as if they were really inclined to do it by sending me a Message soon after my Return, requesting me to lay before them what Instructions I might have relating to Laws that they might not lose time in preparing Bills which by my Instructions I could not pass. finding only the 44 Instruction to be of a publick Nature, I forthwith sent them a Copy of it, with an Assurance that I had no other which cou'd effect any of their Deliberations. The first Business that came on was the Affair of Quarters. Lord Loudoun in a Letter of 22[rd] September which was laid before the House at their first Meeting demanded of this Province to make Provision for Quarters, & the necessary allowed in them, and by a subsequent Letter of the 28[th] October, informed me, that he should send one Battalion of the Royal American [bound in] and an Inde-
pendent Company, to be quartered in this City, which coming to my Hands at Easton, cou'd not be laid before the House till the 24th November. This however gave time enough to have a Bill passed & the Quarters settled before the March of the Troops, to which the House was pressed, but in vain; nor was anything done till the Forces had actually begun their March & an Officer was sent before to give Notice of it & to inspect the Quarters, imagining they were ready. The House alarmed at their Approach presented me a Bill extending the Sections relating to Quarters in the Act for punishing Mutiny & Desertion, &c. This Act of Parliament you know only affects publick Houses and indeed is calculated for Times of Peace even in England. Before I wou'd enter upon the Consideration of this Bill, I sent to the Mayor, and ordered him to cause an exact Account to be taken of the Publick Houses within this City, and what number of Quarters cou'd be furnished by them, upon which he issued his Precepts to the Constables of each Ward to inspect every Publick House, and on receiving their Return, I examined it, the Mayor and Captain Tulliken being present. Finding the Return not to be so exactly made as to be depended on, I desired those Gentlemen wou'd visit every Publick House themselves, in order to be satisfied of the real Estate of the Quarters, and well it was I gave this order for they discovered that the Constables Returns were partial; false and made at the Instances of the Tavern Keepers who imagined they shou'd be allowed a Shilling a day for every Soldier, as they had been for every Recruit. On reading the 24th Section of the Act of Parliament at large, the Conduct of the Assembly was detected for by extending the beginning of this Section, the present Bill was seen to be the very same in Effect with their Old Law repealed by the King and therefore the Bill was returned with a Negative, and a Message setting forth this Imposition. The House apprehensive of the bad Consequences of any further Delay, left out the Part objected to. Notwithstanding I was satisfied that Quarters cou'd not be provided, under this Act, sufficient for the Number of Troops expected here, yet the Bill was good as far as it wou'd go. & besides established Quartering of Troops by Law throughout the Province. I therefore passed it, recommending at the same time a further provision of Quarters to supply the Deficiency of the Publick Houses. In the meantime Lieut. Coll. Bouquet, being made acquainted by Capt. Tulliken with the Difficulties occurring about the Soldiers Quarters, hastened to Town exceedingly displeased as there was a new Provincial Hospital sufficient to hold five hundred Men with the proportion of Officers just finished, tho' not used; at his pressing Instance I applied for it as what woud help us at once out of all our difficulties, and had good hopes given me of succeeding, tho' in the End I was refused. I then made application to the Mayor, to desire the Corporation wou'd assist in providing Quarters by hiring empty Houses or by any other means, to prevent, if possible, Quartering on Private Houses. My Request was politely refused, the Corporation not having funds sufficient to be at so much Expense. During these Transactions
a very deep snow fell succeeded by a sharp Frost. In this severe weather the Troops marched into Town, the small Pox raging in every Part, and were crowded into Publick Houses, where they suffered extreme Hardships and caught the Infection. The Surgeons declared every House would be an Hospital unless the sick were removed into one Place and those who were well less crowded & better accommodated. After all the Pains taken by the Mayor and Magistrates, it appeared by the Return that Quarters were wanting for One hundred and twenty-four private Men. These distressed circumstances of the Troops I repeatedly laid before the House, who nevertheless suffered the Men to lie in this miserable Condition. Lieutenant Colonel Bouquet having met with nothing but Disappointments, and more Men falling sick every day demanded my Warrant. On the Mayor's refusing to Act, I sent for the high Sheriff, acquainting him with Colonel Bouquet's Demand, and assured him, a Warrant to provide sufficient Quarters for the King's Troops would be delivered to Colonel Bouquet, directed to him to which he was to yield Obedience; charging him to take particular Care that the Inhabitants were distressed as little as possible on the Manner of Quartering. This Measure was intended to hasten the Resolution of the House on this important Affair which would admit of no further delay. The Warrant was accordingly delivered, in the Presence of the Sheriff, to the Commanding officer with a Blank for the Number of Men who wanted Quarters, and he was to send it to me to have them inserted, in case it was necessary to be executed, early next Day the Sheriff waited on Colonel Bouquet, and desired he might be trusted with the Writ for a short Time, in order to shew it to some of his Friends, who had great Influence on the Assembly and might by their Petition prevent the Necessity of putting it into Execution, which would have been very agreeable to all Parties. Instead of a Petition, the Writ itself was laid before the House in a clandestine Manner, and very improperly, by the Sheriff's Consent; which threw the House into a ferment and for the first time since the Charter, they sat all Saturday Afternoon and Sunday Morning, and drew up a long abusive Message, which they chose should be delivered by two of the Members, as the People were going to Church, desiring withal a Conference for the final Settlement of the Matter; to which I readily agreed and appointed the next Morning. On Perusal of their Message, I found it contained a long narrative filled with Abuses, which I answered briefly, telling them these Proceedings should be referred to the King's Ministers, and informing them that while they were consuming their Time in long Messages, Sixty two Beds were actually wanted for One hundred and twenty-four Men who lay upon Straw, and Quarters for the Recruits who arrived every Day.

At the Conference, which was held in Council, the Members of the House behaved with great Rudeness and Insolence, calling me a Bashaw &c. using many other Expressions, not at all becoming them. I only answered that if they found fault with me for doing my Duty in Quartering the King's Troops in that very severe Season, they did me...
a great deal of Honor and that whatever might be the Consequence
I was determined to do my Duty. Immediately after the Conference,
finding nothing was to be expected from the Assembly, I dispatched an
Express to Lord Loudoun, with an Account of all these Proceedings,
who was pleased by the Return of the Messenger to thank me for my
proper and steady Conduct, offering to send me more Troops to enforce
the Quarters, if the Assembly shou'd still continue obstinate. The
House, having, without my privity or Consent presumed to adjourn
for the Christmas Holidays, notwithstanding the distressed Condition
and Sickness of the Soldiers, who were raised and paid to defend them:
His Lordship's Letter came to my Hand during this Adjournment.
This obstinate Persisting in an open Neglect of Humanity was the
highest Instance I have ever met with of the Depravity of Human
Nature. I had however another Resource, which was to acquaint the
Commissioners that I had received a Letter from his Lordship which
obliged me to know if Colonel Bouquet's Demand for Quarters &c. con'd
be complied with, & to insist on a clear & precise Answer before Night,
telling them that the Express waited to carry it to his Lordship. On
this Letter the Commissioners met, and sent me an Answer, subscribed
by all that they wou'd comply with Colonel Bouquet's Demand & pro-
vide Quarters, an Hospital, & all other Things to his Satisfaction.
Thus this troublesome Affair was at last settled, which might with a
great deal of Ease have been done as well at first, and with a much
better Grace. The Assembly was pleased immediately to print a partial
Report of the Conference, without my Leave, or even acquainting me
of their Intention, nor had they so much Decency and Regard to Justice
as to compare the minutes with the Clerk of the Council.

On the 13 January, after having sat three compleat Calendar Months,
the House presented me three Bills, one for binding out & settling &c
the French Neutral's. The second for regulating the Provincial Officers
and Soldiers that is putting them on the same Footing with the King's
Troops with a power given me to appoint a Court Martial, and the
third for continuing the City Watch, all which were passed without
any hesitation or objection, but still I heard nothing from them on
the Article of Supplies, or the Militia, At length, on the 22d January,
a Bill was sent to me for raising One hundred Thousand pounds for the
King's use by a Tax on all Estates real & personal, which on Perusal
appeared to me as a Stranger, as well as to the Gentlemen of the
Council, who have been long experienced in the Affairs of this Country,
to be not only contrary to your particular Instructions, but if there
had been no Instructions at all, to common Equity and Justice. Not
desirous to open a new Controversy about the Rights of amending Bills
which of late the House had begun to controvert. In a short Message
to the House I declared the Necessity I was under of refusing my
Assent to it, and pressed them to prepare a New Bill free from the
Objections which so obviously lay against this. Instead of a Comply-
ance they thought proper to return me the Bill with a Remonstrance
demanding it of me as their Right to give my Assent to it (and as
it was a Money Bill without Alteration or Amendment) as I shou’d
answer to the Crown for all the Consequences of my Refusal, at my
Peril. To this extreme Rudeness and Insolence I made no other
Reply than still to refuse my Assent to the Bill and to tell the House
I woud copy it in order to lay it before his Majesty with my Reasons
for not passing it and if the House desired an Exemplification under
the Great Seal they might have it upon Application. Under this
Disappointment the House proceeded to consider other Means of raising
Supplies, and tho’ many might have occurred to them which I cou’d
pass consistent with Honour & a regard to Justice, yet it was easy
to foresee that in such a Humour they wou’d not offer me any such:
at length they fell upon making a Supplemental Bill to the Sixty
Thousand Pounds Act already passed by his Majesty their pretense
for this was that it had obtained the Royal Assent, which agreeable
to the Preamble of the Instruction most probably wou’d not have been
given, if the Proprietaries had not declined all opposition on Account
of the Bills having issued, and the perilous Circumstances of the
Province, so that what was meant by the Proprietaries as a well timed
Instance of their Indulgence was artfully turned against them and the
Law tho’ unjust as being permitted to pass sub Silentio, was set up
for a precedent.

In order to obviate this plausible Reason in favour of the Bill,
a Message was sent to set forth the Grievances which woud fall on
particulars in case it was to pass into a Law. This had no other
Effect than to produce an abusive Report of a Committee of Assembly
which the House adopted and returned the Bill with a Verbal Message
conceived in their usual Strain, that if I shoud continue to refuse
my Assent to the Bill as it then stood they must refer it to me to
pay the Forces or disband them as I shoud judge I coud best Answer
for my Conduct to his Majesty.

As soon as this troublesome Affair was ended they presented to me
a Bill to render the Quartering of the Soldiers on the Publick Houses
more equal, in which they laid further Excise of two pence per gallon
on Liquors sold by Publick Housekeepers subject by Law to be billeted
upon, which leaving out the Retailers of small Liquors did but make
bad worse, the Injustice of this Bill I set forth in a Message to which
they paid no Regard and tho’ I was by no means convinced it was
a good Bill, yet as it made some further Provision for Quarters, and
was of a short Duration, I was advised to pass it, which I did un-
willingly, thinking it to be a partial Bill.

Having received a Letter from the Lords of Trade in January last,
ordering restraints to be laid on all Vessels bound to any other Port
than such as belonged to his Majesty. I laid it before the House with
a Message desiring a Bill might be prepared agreeable to the King’s
Orders signified in that Letter. As if there was not already matter
enough of Debate they presented me a Bill confining the Restraint and
Prohibition to America only, leaving Vessels at Liberty to sail to any
Neutral ports in Europe, and adhered to this partial Bill in Opposition
to my just Amendments, & against the express directions of the Lords of Trade who were on this Occasion treated with Indecency in one of their Messages which they likewise published in the Gazettee.

Another Bill was likewise offered at the same Time to continue the Act now expired for the more easy and speedy recovery of Legacies. As to this I was informed by Mr. Hamilton & Mr. Peters you had made some just objections to it as interfering with the Powers of Chancery yet this being not a Time to raise new Disputes the Council advised me to pass it, which I accordingly did.

On the fourth of March an Express arrived in the Evening from Lord Loudoun with Letters to me & the Southern Governors requiring us to lay a General Embargo, and to take all imaginable that it should be strictly observed. The Collector was instantly sent for and served with an Order in Form under the Great Seal not to clear any Vessel and desired forthwith to send a List of all the Vessels in Port particularly those who had got their Clearances. The next Day I conferred with Colonel Stanwix and give order to the Officer who commanded at the Fort not to suffer any Vessels to pass, I sent a Message to the House acquainting them with what had been done & desiring such an Embargo might be laid by Law as wou'd answer my Lords’ Purposes, to this they have not yet vouchsafed to give me any Answer.

In the Minutes of the Indian Conferences you will find an Invitation made to the Indians to come & settle at Shamokin with a Promise of having a Store of Goods to be sold to them at reasonable rates under the Care of a Person for whom the Government woud be answerable—to enable me to discharge this Promise and to put the Indian Trade, heretofore in the Hands of Persons of no Character who had abused and defrauded the Indians, upon a good footing, it was necessary a good Law shou’d be carefully framed, and such an one I might reasonably have expected, instead of this, the House sent a Bill the like to which I will venture to say was never offered in any Government. The Power of naming, commissionating, and instructing, the Agents to be employed in regulating the Trade, and even distributing the Presents to the Indians & almost every Thing being lodged solely in the House or Committees of Assembly without any Participation of the Governor and Council. Such a Bill I understood had been offered to the late Governor whose Amendments were read in Council & being again considered & approved as necessary, reasonable and just, they were transcribed and sent with the Bill to the House, who instantly returned it with a Negative and I as quickly sent it again with my peremptory refusal.

Mr. Hockly no doubt has acquainted you with the ill Temper the House was in, on my refusing a Bill for striking the Sum of Two thousand and eight Hundred and forty pounds, the remainder unpaid of your Gift of £5000. The Money was indeed particularly wanted at that Time and cou’d have been employed to very great Advantage in enabling me to send Lieutenant Colonel Armstrong on a private Expedition which cou’d not be executed for want of such a Sum.
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One Bill more closes this Tedious Account of the Proceedings of Assembly, except what was done with or by Advice of Lord Loudoun which will be told more properly when I come to speak of my Transactions with his Lordship.

Common Sense and fatal Experience shews, that in such a Country as this with so extended a Frontier, that proper Defence must be made by a well disciplined & well-regulated Militia, and this, tho' the first in Order & Consequence, was put off to the Close of the Sessions without regard to my warm recommendations of it in my Speech at the Opening of the Sessions, and to my repeated Applications during the Course of it.

I proposed to the Council to have a good & proper Militia Bill carefully drawn, and to have it sent to the House early in their Sessions, but it was signified to me by them that many of the Assembly on the New change of Members were well disposed and might offer a better Bill of themselves than they would approve, if sent by the Governor, of whom their Attachment to the People led them to entertain unreasonable Jealousies.

On this consideration I dropped the Motion and waited for the Result of the Assembly's Deliberations on this important Subject, which as I said they did not chuse to send me till the Members were tired with their long Sessions & impatient to go home.

The State of the Frontiers & the Forces come next to be considered. After Col°. Armstrong's successful Expedition against the Kittaning and the Conclusion of the Peace at Easton the back Inhabitants enjoyed rest from the Incursions of the Savage, and the poor People who were drove from their Plantations generally returned to them. Straggling Parties of Indians may be always expected to do Mischief but none has been done in any Part of this Province during the whole Winter that has come to my knowledge, except that whilst Teedyuscung & his People were loitering on the Borders in his Return an House was attacked under the Blue Hills in Northampton County, one Man killed, a Girl of about eleven years of Age carried off and a woman missing, a little after this a Boy was killed & scalped on the Borders of Berks County, & another dangerously wounded, who made his Escape and declared he saw but two Indians. Two of the Centries at Fort Augusta were shot by foreign Indians in the Winter, who made off instantly & tho' pursued were not overtaken, of this last Party of Indians Teedyuscung as I said above gave an Account. In my last, I mentioned that the Augusta Battalion were employed in building and carrying on the Works at that Fort, their Duty and Labour very severe. Even under these Circumstances of the Garrison, I ordered a strong Detachment under Colonel Clapham toward the Ohio, to act offensively and if possible destroy an Indian Town; but Intelligence arriving before these Orders cou'd be carried into Execution, that a large Body of French and Indians was coming to besiege the Fort they were obliged to lay the Expedition aside. This account proving false, Colonel Clapham, who was employed in finishing the Fort, sent out a Captain’s Command, to attack an Indian Town called Shingleclamouse,
situate near the Head of the West Branch of Susquehannah where was supposed to be a great Resort of Indians. Captain Hambright entered the Town, found the Cabins all standing, but deserted by the Indians: agreeable to his Orders he did not touch anything, nor destroy the Town in hopes the Indians would come & settle there again; This was the only Indian Town could be attacked, & we found by a second Expedition that they had return'd, set their Town on Fire and retired to Venango, situate where the River auBoeuf runs into the Ohio. Since the affair of Kittaning the Indians on this side the Ohio have mostly retired with their Wives and Children under the French Forts on that River.

The state of the Provincial Forces, a subject the most disagreeable of all still remains to be mentioned. The thirty thousand Pounds raised in Septemb' were soon expended in discharging the Arrears due to the Forces, and for other Articles, at the Time that Bill passed. No Money remaining for the future Pay of the Soldiers, and the Supply Bill being kept back, another large Arrear was incurred, I suppose purposely, to breed Discontent among the Forces, prevent recruiting, and every Way to increase the publick Confusion, in Order to oblige me to pass any Bill that should be presented. The Difficulties put upon me were, and still are, inconceivable, on Account of the Manner used here in enlisting into the Service, which is in some Instances for three Months, in others for six, and in almost all, for only a Year. This I wanted to alter from the very beginning, and gave the Officers Orders to recruit for no less Time than three Years, or during the War.—I declared from Time to time to the Commissioners the Necessity of this Alteration, and their giving a large Bounty for every Recruit, but they still answered me, that they had no Money, with this Answer I was forced to acquiesce.

As in the Spring Parties of the Enemy Indians were expected to renew their Incursions, at the latter End of March I ordered Lieutenant Colonel Armstrong to encamp with a Detachment consisting of Three hundred Men near Rea's Town a well chosen Station on this side the Allegheny Hills between two Indian Roads the only known Track of the Indians to invest this Province. He had further Directions to employ Spies, and send out ranging Parties, by these might have been prevented or their Retreat cut off which would probably have hindered future Incursions. For this Service a few Horses, some Forrage & a small matter of Camp Equipage are wanting. I cannot prevail on the Commissioners to advance the necessary Supplies, so that I doubt this Expedition will miscarry for want of a trifling Expense.

Colonel Clapham gave me early Notice that most of his Battalion was only enlisted for a Year, which in several Instances is already expired & in most will expire either in this or the next Month. That Gentleman tir'd with the Discouragements perpetually given to the Service, and with their particular Treatment of him, has resigned his Commission, & there never having been a Lieu'. Col'. appointed to
that Battalion, Major Bird has now the Command at Augusta. The Works there cou’d not be finished before the severe Season came on, but they will be soon compleated if the Soldiers can be prevail’d upon to continue in the Service, which I very much doubt. They have done a great deal & ought to have Encouragement to do more which it is not in my Power to give.

William Denny

Governor Denny to the Earl of Holderness.

Philadelphia 12 July 1757

My Lord

I was honored with your Lordship’s Letter of the Second of May, by the Spry Sloop of War. The Embargo was taken off by Lord Loudon’s Direction the Twenty Seventh of last Month. I shall strictly conform to the other particulars in your Lordship’s Letter.

The Affairs of this Colony seem to be every Day in a worse Situation than the last, and however reasonable the Proprietary Instructions may appear at home, it has, and may be impossible to put them in Execution, in every particular, especially in the Articles of greater Consequence, the Assembly of this Province obstinately refusing to raise Money on the Plan laid down in those Instructions, notwithstanding I have frequently recommended it to them. Therefore I find myself obliged to represent to your Lordship, that I think it will be for his Majesty’s Service and the Safety of this Colony, that the Proprietaries should be pleased to relax their Instructions, or one of them come over because the Distance is so great, that before I can explain the Necessity of an alteration in them, the Province may be lost. I am

My Lord

Your Lordship’s most obliged
and most obedient
humble Servant
William Denny

Earl of Holderness.

Gen. John Forbes to Governor Denny.

Fourt Duquesene
now Pittsbourg 26 November 1758.

Sir,

I have the pleasure and honour of acquainting you with the Signal success of His Majesty’s Troops over all his Enemies on the Ohio, by having obliged them to burn and abandon their Fort Duquesene which they effectuated upon the 24th. instant. And of which I took possession with my little Army, the next day, the Enemy having made their Escape down the River part in Boats and part by Land to their Forts and Settlements on the Mississippi, being abandoned or at least not seconded by their Friends the Indians whom we had previously engaged
Memoir of Colonel William Denny.

to act a neutral part, and who now seem all willing and ready to embrace His Majesty's most gracious Protection.

So give me leave to congratulate you upon this important event of having totally expelled the French from their Fort and this prodigious tract of fine Country and of having in a manner reconciled the various tribes of Indians inhabiting it, to His Majesty's Government.

I have not time to give you a detail of our proceedings and approaches towards the Enemy, or of the hardships and difficulties that we necessarily met with, all that will soon come out, but I assure you after reviewing the Ground and Fort, I have great reason to be most thankful for the part that the French have acted.

As the conquest of this Country is of the greatest consequence to the adjacent Provinces by securing the Indians our real Friends for their own advantage, I have therefore sent for their head people to come to me, when I think in few Words and few days to make every thing easy. I shall then set out to kiss your hands if I have strength enough left to carry me through the Journey.

I shall be obliged to leave about 200 Men of your Provincial troops to join a proportion of Virginia and Marylanders in order to protect this Country during Winter, by which time I hope the Provinces will be so sensible of the great benefit of this new Acquisition as to enable me to fix this noble fine Country to all perpetuity under the dominion of Great Britain.

I beg the Barracks may be put in good repair and proper lodging for the Officers, and that you will send me with the greatest dispatch your Opinion how I am to dispose of the rest of your Provincial Troops, for the ease and convenience of the Province and the Inhabitants—You must also remember that Colonel Montgomery's Battalion of 1300 Men & Four Companies of Royal Americans, are after so long and tedious a Campaign to be taken care off in some Comfortable Winter Quarters.

I kiss all your hands and flatter myself that if I get to Philadelphia, under your cares and good Companies I shall yet run a good chance of reestablishing a health that I run the risk of ruining to give your Province all the Satisfaction in the power of my weak abilities.

I am Sir,

with great esteem and regard
Your most obedient
humble Servant
Jo: Forbes

Governor Denny

Governor Denny to Thomas Penn.

Philadelphia 30th May 1759.

Sir

I take this Opportunity of acquainting you that the Lower Counties have raised Seven Thousand Pounds for this Year's Supplies, which
will recruit and pay 3 companies of 60 Men to a Company. That Assembly absolutely refused to raise any Money for the King's Service unless I wou'd give my assent to a Bill for remitting their Twenty Thousand Pounds to be let out on Loan for the further Term of 16 Years and in Consequence of a pressing Letter from Brigadier Gen' Stanwix, a Copy whereof is enclos'd I passed it, and have the Satisfaction to find my Conduct approv'd of by General Amherst, a Copy of whose Letter on that Subject I have likewise sent you.

The Assembly of this Province is now sitting and have offer'd me a Bill for recording of Warrants and Surveys & for rendering the real Estates and Property within this Province more secure, which is under Consideration. I have only time to add, I am, Sir,

Your affectionate friend
and most obedient
humble servant

William Denny.

The Honorable Thomas Penn Esquire