

May 9, 1754.

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THE PENNSYLVANIA



GAZETTE.

Containing the Freshest Ad-

VICES, Foreign and Domestick.

The SPEECH of his Excellency
WILLIAM SHIRLEY, Esq;
To the Great General Court or Assembly of the Province of
the Massachusetts Bay, in New-England, March 28, 1754.

HAVING received in the Retreat of the Court some Dispatches, which nearly concern the Welfare of the Province: I thought it necessary to require a general Attendance of the Members of both Houses at this Meeting of the Assembly, that the Matters contained in them may have a full and speedy Consideration, as the Importance of them seems to demand.

By Accounts sent from *Richmond Fort*, and Declarations made before me and His Majesty's Council, by two of the Settlers at *Frankfort*, upon the River *Kennebeck*, I am inform'd, that in the Summer before last a considerable Number of French settled themselves upon a noted Carrying-Place, made Use of by the several Indian Tribes inhabiting that Part of the Country, in their Passage to and from *Canada*, which separates the Head of the aforesaid River from that of the River *Chaudiere*, which last falls into the great River *St. Lawrence*, at Four Miles and a Half above the City of *Quebeck*.

And I have received further Intelligence, that the French are settled very thick for 12 Miles on each Side of the said River *Chaudiere*, at about 30 Miles Distance above the Mouth of it, and in the Midway between the River *St. Lawrence* and the before-mentioned Carrying-Place: And the Captain of *Richmond Fort* in his Letter, dated 23^d of last *January*, informs me, That the *Norridgewock Indians* have declared to him, "That they had given the new French Settlers upon the Carrying-Place, Liberty to hunt any where in that Country, as a Recompence for the great Service they will be of to them, in a Time of War with the *English*, by supplying them with Provisions and Military Stores."

The same Officer further acquaints me, in another Letter, dated *February* the 11th, That several *Indians* of the *Arnygonicook*, and some of the *Penobscot* Tribe, amounting, together with the *Norridgewock Indians*, to Sixty effective Men, besides Boys, capable of bearing Arms, were then lately arrived in the Neighbourhood of the Fort under his Command: And that tho' they assembled there on Pretence of writing a joint Letter to me, as they have done, yet he had Reason to expect from their Haughty Insolent Behaviour, the repeated open Threats of some of them, and the private Warnings from others, that as soon as the Rivers should be free from Ice, they would commit Hostilities against the *English*, upon that and neighbouring Rivers; in which they intimate, they are to be assisted by a Number of French from *Canada*, disguised like *Indians*: And in another Letter, dated the 10th of *March*, he acquaints me, that the French Priest, Missionary to the *Indians* of the River *Kennebeck*, appeared to him to be constantly using Artifices to excite the *Indians* to prevent our Settlements from being extended higher up it; to set them at Variance with the *English*; and to dispose them to a War with them this Spring.

Most of these Accounts are confirm'd by the Declarations of the before-mentioned Settlers at *Frankfort*, with the additional Circumstances, that the French Priest had been very inquisitive after *Roman Catholic* Families in that Settlement; and used Endeavours to draw off some of the Inhabitants into the Service of the French; particularly for building a Chapel and a Dwelling-House for himself upon that River, about three or four Miles above *Cassiana*, and at the Distance of 24 from *Frankfort*; and been very industrious to persuade them that it was within the French Territories: And the *Indians* have further declared, that they have been intimidated by the Governor of *Canada* to hinder the *English* from settling upon any Part of the River; which is strongly confirm'd by a Deposition of *Capt. Lithgow*, made in *August* last.

Upon this Occasion, Gentlemen, I sent as soon as might be, with the Advice of His Majesty's Council, the necessary Reinforcements of Men and Stores to all the Eastern Forts; issued Commissions for raising six Independent Companies in the Townships and Districts next adjacent to them, with Orders for the Officers and Soldiers to hold themselves in constant Readiness to march upon any Alarm, to the Succour of any neighbouring Fort or Settlement which may be attack'd; to cut off the Enemy in their Retreat; and in case that they should find that the *Norridgewock Indians* have committed Hostilities, to break up their Villages and Settlements upon *Kennebeck*, and to kill or capture all they can meet with of their Tribe: I likewise ordered an Officer, commissioned by me for that Purpose, to proceed by the first Opportunity to the supposed Place of the new French Settlement, in order to discover the Certainty and Circumstances of it; and to require the French Commandant to retire and withdraw the People under his Command from that Spot, as being under His Majesty's Dominion, and within the Limits of this Government.

And I doubt not, Gentlemen, from your distinguish'd Zeal for the Defence of His Majesty's Territories, and the Protection of his Subjects within this Government upon all Occasions, but that upon a Refusal of the French to comply with that Requestion, you will make sufficient Provision for enabling me to compel them with the arm'd Force of the Province, to free it from their Incroachments.

The Concern, Gentlemen, which you express'd in your Message to me at our Meeting in *December* last, upon your Apprehensions of the imminent Danger, which the Province was in, from the French having fortify'd themselves upon the River of *St. Johns*, close to our Borders, leaves me no Room to doubt of your being sensible of the fatal Consequences in the general that must attend Incroachments, which it seems plain they are now pushing into the Heart of the Province (as the General Court in a Vote pass'd the 16th of *January*, 1749, justly calls the River *Kennebeck*) unless they are timely removed.

But it may not be improper for me to observe to you in particular, that it appears from an Extract which I have lately caus'd to be made of some original Letters taken among Father *Ralle's* Papers at breaking up the Indian Settlement at *Norridgewock* in 1724, and which pass'd between him, Father *Laverjat*, Priest of the *Penobscot* Tribe, and Father *La Chasse*, Superior of the *Jesuits* at *Quebeck*, during the Indian War in the Years 1723 and 1724; That the Head of *Kennebeck* River, near which the *Indians* have declared the French have made a new Settlement, was the Centre of most of the Tribes then at War with us, and the general Rendezvous of all that came to the Eastern Parts: The *Uronis*, the *Iroquois* of the Falls of *St.*

Lewis, the Tribe of *St. Francis* (or *Arnygonicook*) and the *Indians* of the *Sagouie* (as the French call them) of *Blancour* on the one Hand, used to assemble with the *Norridgewocks* here, from their several Settlements, and the *Provincians* from their River, on the other: Here they held their Consultations, and from hence issued in Parties united or separate, as best suited them, against the *English*; hither they retired for Action, and brought their Wounded for Relief; and here, as they met with Provisions, they said well; if not, they suffer'd sorely for Want of them.

It appears further from these Letters, that the several French Missionaries chiefly conducted and managed this War; that they had the Care of supplying the *Indians* with the necessary Provisions and Stores for carrying it on; were employed to make them persevere in it, and to push them on to their boldest Enterprises; that they transmitted Accounts of their Proceedings to the Government of *Canada* thro' the Hands of the Superior of the *Jesuits* at *Quebeck*, thro' whom likewise they received their Directions from thence; and as the Governor of *Canada* seems to have done his, upon this Occasion, from the Court of *France*.

And I would further observe, that this Route affords the French a shorter Passage for making Descents from *Quebeck* upon this Province, and destroying the whole Province of *Maine*, with the King's Woods there, and in the Government of *New-Hampshire*, than any other whistever from *Canada*.

These Advantages, which the Possession of this River would give the French over this Province, make it easy to account for their constant Endeavours ever since the Treaty of *Breda*, at which it was determined in the most solemn Manner, between the two Crowns, that the River *Pentagoet* or *Penobscot*, was the Boundary between *New-England* and *Acadia* or *Nova-Scotia*, to extend the Limits by Claim upon all Occasions (as in Fact they have done) to the Eastern Side of the River *Kennebeck*; tho' they never attempted, until within these few Years, to pass over the River *St. Lawrence*, within the Extent of this Province.

I am satisfied it is needless for me, Gentlemen, to urge any Thing more to them now necessary for the Safety of this Government it is, that we should secure to ourselves the Possession of this important River against the Incroachments of the French without Delay: And I think, the present Situation of Affairs in that Country must convince you, how vain a Scheme it would now be to have your sole Dependence for gaining this Point upon making annual Presents to *Indians*, who appear to have entered into an offensive Alliance with the French against you; and have shew'd evident Marks of a Disposition to put the River into their Power.

How different are such Proceedings from those of the French? Whilst we have been suing in vain for a few *Indians* for their Permission to settle Lands within the supposed Limits of this Province, and which themselves can't deny to have been purchased of their Ancestors; and have in Effect promis'd them their yearly Tribute to refrain them from committing Acts of Hostility against us; the French have marched Armies into distant Countries of numerous and powerful Tribes, which without any Colour of Right they have invaded; They have forbid them to make further Grants of any of their Lands to the *English*, and have built, and are still building strong Forts, with an avow'd Intent to drive them off from the Lands already granted to them, and to exclude them from all Commerce with those *Indians*, whom they have threatened with Destruction, if they shall presume to interfere in their Favour.

It is time, Gentlemen, for you to desist from having your chief Dependence upon temporary Expedients, which seem rather to have expos'd the Government to the Contempt of these *Indians*, than to have conciliated their Friendship to it; and to take Counsel in Part from the Policy of our Neighbours.

Vigorous Measures against the French, in case they shall refuse to quit his Majesty's Territories within this Government, without being compell'd to it by Force; building a strong Fort near the Head of the River *Kennebeck*, above the Settlements of the *Norridgewock Indians*, and pushing on our Settlements upon it, in a defensible Manner, would effectually rid the Province of the Incroachments of the Former, and either hold the Latter in a due Dependence upon us, or oblige them to abandon the River.

And further, by making ourselves, through this Means, Masters of the Pass, which was the general Place of Rendezvous during the Indian War in 1723 and 1724, of all the Tribes engaged in it, both in their Incursions and Retreats, we should have it in our Power to curb all those *Indians* for the future; and in a great Measure prevent them from attempting to make Depredations in our exposed Settlements.

I must further observe to you upon this Occasion, Gentlemen, how dangerous Delays to make suitable Preparations for removing the French would be.

How practicable was it at first, to have put a Stop to their Proceedings, in building their Fort at *Cross-Point*? And you can't but remember, what mischievous Effects of the Neglect to do that in the Beginning, were felt by this and the Province of *New-York*, in the Ravages which they suffer'd from thence during the late War.

A short Delay to dislodge them from their Incroachments near the River *Kennebeck*, might give them an Opportunity of making themselves Masters of that River likewise, in the End; and in that Case we may expect soon to see another Fort built by them near the Mouth of it, and the French in Possession of all the Sea Coast, between that and the River *St. Johns*.

Gentlemen of the Council, and House of Representatives, I hope you will proceed in the Consideration of these Matters with that Unanimity and Dispatch which his Majesty's Service and the Safety of the Province requires; And that you, Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, will make the necessary Supplies.

Council-Chamber, March 28, 1754. W. SHIRLEY.

The SPEECH of his Excellency JONATHAN BELCHER, Esq; Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province of Nova Caesarea, or New-Jersey, and Territories depending thereon in America, Chancellor and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c. to the Council and General Assembly of the said Province.

Gentlemen of the Council, and of the General Assembly, ALTHOUGH I am sensible it is a busy Season, yet His Majesty's royal Orders, have made it absolutely necessary for you together at this Time; and I have directed the Secretary,

to lay before you the following Letters: One from the Right Hon. the Earl of *Holderness*, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, dated *Whitehall*, August 28, 1753: And another from the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, dated *Whitehall*, September 18, 1753. The first Letter you will see, relates to any hostile Attempts or Incroachments that should be made on the Limits of the King's Dominions. And the other respects an Interview that is to be held, the Middle of *June* next, with the Chiefs of the *Six Nations* at *Albany*.

I have also ordered to be communicated to you, three Letters from the Honourable Mr. *Dimond*, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Territory and Dominion of *Virginia*; which gave you the Particulars of the Invasion and Depredations made by a Body of French and *Indians*, on the King's Lands; and of the cruel Barbarities and Murders committed by them, on His good Subjects; and all done in Infracton of the Treaties of Peace, made between His Majesty and the French King.

I also send, with the other Letters mentioned, One from His Excellency Mr. *Spirley*, Governor of His Majesty's Province of the *Massachusetts Bay*, in *New-England*: Another from the Honourable Mr. *De Lanoy*, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Colony of *New-York*.

By these two Letters, you will find the unjust Attempts the French are making upon the King's Territories in *New-England*; and that they seem to be laying Schemes for a general Destruction and Ruin of the *English* Provinces on this Continent: As also, the great Necessity of our joining with the other Colonies, in sending Commissioners to *Albany* in *June* next, there to consult the most prudent Measures for holding and confirming the *Six Nations* in the *English* Interest. Yet, if upon the Whole, there becomes a strict Union among all His Majesty's Colonies, we may reasonably hope (with the Help of God) the Designs of the French will soon be rendered vain and abortive; which at present so nearly affect the Honour and Interest of the Crown of *Great-Britain*, as well as the future Peace and Welfare of this, and the neighbouring Provinces: I therefore earnestly recommend to your most deliberate and mature Consideration, these extraordinary Proceedings; and then I shall not doubt your doing every Thing in your Power, in Aid and Assistance with the Rest of the *English* Colonies: I say, I hope you will cheerfully unite with them, to ward off from yourselves and your Posterity, the fatal Consequences that must attend the present unjustifiable Violence and Insults of the French (in Conjunction with the *Indians*) And on this Occasion it is with Pleasure, Gentlemen, that I mention to you, the Zeal and Alacrity, with which many of our Neighbours have already exerted themselves, for the King's Honour and Interest, and in Compassion to their Fellow-Subjects, on this common Emergency. And your answering the King's just Expectations in these important Affairs, you may depend, will greatly recommend you to the Royal Grace and Favour.

Gentlemen, You will, according to your wonted Care, make Inquiry into any temporary Laws that are expired, and that ought to be revived.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly, As the Provision made in your last Session, for the Support of the Government, expires the next Month; I shall not doubt your now doing what may be necessary for maintaining the Honour and Justice of the Province.

Gentlemen of the Council, and of the General Assembly, I desire you will consider of any Thing you may think, further needful to be done at this Session, for His Majesty's Service, and for the Welfare of His good People; and on your laying it before me, you may be assured, I shall heartily concur with you therein.

Elizabeth-Town, April 25, 1754. J. BELCHER.

Bourdeaux, Feb. 8. Our Parliament's Arret of the 25th of *January*, was served upon the Curate and the Vicars of *Dax* the 28th of *February*; and the Vicars refused to obey the Arret, which ordered them to administer the Sacraments to a sick Lady. The Prior of the Carmelites, who had refused to perform a Funeral Service for the late *M. Daillens*, had also fled from Justice. The Bishop of *Dax*, degrading the Consequence of this Affair, retired to *Florus*, a little Town in his Diocese. However, the Informations ordered by the Parliament having been made, they were received Yesterday; and this Day all the Chamber being assembled the Solicitor presented the Informations, and also two Petitions, one from the Relations of the late *M. Daillens*, and the other from the sick Lady, demanding the Execution of the Arrets already issued by the Parliament. To-morrow, 'tis expected, will produce some important Resolution.

Aix, Feb. 10. The first Infant *M. Costelin*, Father-in-Law of *M. de St. Michel*, Lieutenant Civil in the *Balkynack* of *Marseilles*, notified to *M. Dargent*, who as well as *M. de Montclar* is the King's Attorney-general in this Parliament, an Arret of the Council of State, ordering the Prosecution against *M. de St. Michel* to be suspended, and the Motives thereto to be sent to the Council. This Arret was notified by *M. Costelin* alone, as no Officer or Tip-Staff could be prevailed upon to do it. The Attorney-general refused to receive it, and made a Report of the Matter to the Parliament; upon which, all the Chamber being assembled Yesterday, came to the following Resolution:

That the Deliberation of the 14th of *January* last shall be executed; and to this End Deputies shall repair forthwith to the King, in order to carry him the most humble and most respectful Remonstrances agreed upon in the said Deliberation; and moreover to represent to the said Lord the King, in the strongest Manner, that his Parliament would render themselves guilty of a Violation of the Laws of which by their Station they are the Depositories, if they paid any Disobedience to an Arret that waives the respectable Marks of his Authority, and has all the Characteristics of being Jurisdiction; and that the said Arret overturns all judicial Order, and the Rules of Subordination and Obedience, that constitute the Safety of the State, &c. &c.

And the said Lord the King shall be most humbly entreated to provide for the Maintenance of his Parliament's Authority and Dignity, who cannot with Honour continue their Functions, if they do not obtain the Revocation of the said Arret, the Return of their Attorney-general to his Functions, and the Execution of their Decrees against the *Sieur St. Michel*.

The first President has been desired to put himself at the Head of the Deputies, and has promised to do so with the King's Leave; for as he

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