

expedition to the Chesapeak took place afterwards; and some unfortunate events in Carolina calling for still farther reinforcement and co-operation, soon reduced this part of my army to a defensive, almost as low in numbers as Sir William Howe left me in 1777. If our successes, therefore, in the southern Provinces have not answered your Lordship's expectations, it cannot, I am certain, be imputed either to the smallness of the numbers I left there, or the tardiness or scantiness with which I have since supplied the exigencies of that service. Though I am strongly impressed with the importance of recovering Virginia, I fear the entire reduction of so populous a province is not to be expected from an operation solely there; unless our friends in it were more numerous, and were heartily inclined to assist us not only in conquering, but in keeping it.

July