

their enemies: I had here an opportunity of performing my duty, and I was happy.

In the infancy of the settlement, the magistrates of Pennsylvania usurped a power of jurisdiction that was not only illegal but extremely prejudicial to the inhabitants; to preserve which, they proceeded to many very unjustifiable acts of violence, and went even so far as to threaten an appeal to the sword. I was the person, who having the most power, had the greatest share in procuring a redress of these grievances. I was sensible the Charter limits of the Province of Pennsylvania could not justify the exercise of jurisdiction beyond the Western bounds of that government; and therefore applied to the Governor and Council of Virginia, and obtained the necessary authority to prohibit such usurpation, until his Majesty's royal pleasure was known. These things are mentioned, not to display my own merits or consequences, but because they are necessary to the narrative; for though it was my endeavour, throughout this transaction, to conduct myself with a dispassionate and candid regard to justice only, yet, as it was prejudicial to the pecuniary interests of some individuals in Pennsylvania, they became my enemies, among whom, was a Gentleman since advanced to high military rank in the American service.

In the year 1774, disputes arose between the Indians and some inconsiderate people, who, it appeared from every circumstance, had treated the former in a very harsh and improper manner; reciprocal injuries took place, and the industrious and meritorious husbandman, with his innocent family, suffered for the injustice committed by his unprincipled countrymen. I was, at that time, invested with the command of the militia; it was, therefore, my peculiar duty to avert, if possible, a war that threatened the destruction of a flourishing Colony, and every endeavour at pacification was employed by me, but unhappily without effect. Depredations continued, and the defenceless inhabitants fled from the vengeance of their enraged enemies. However, in obedience to the orders of his excellency Lord Dunmore, I raised