

all the Troops notwithstanding their Advantageous Situation must be reduced to the necessity of retiring & destroying or relinquishing the Fort their other Works & perhaps their Baggage to the Enemy. that nothing will be wanting on your part to avert such an Accident I am well persuaded but conceive the Troops will never be well supplied with Provision unless a very different Scheme from that hitherto followed be pursued. The most frugal & most likely means in my Opinion of having that Affair well managed will be to appoint a Commissary of Reputation Ability & some fortune who with the Assistance of a Deputy & a Clerk will be able to attend & execute that Business in a proper & satisfactory manner. His Clerk always & himself for the most part to be resident in the Magazine at Wills Creek to receive Cure & deliver the Provisions & if He be not entrusted himself with Authority to contract for Provision yet to him should be sent Copies of all Contracts as soon as they are made that he might know when to expect the Supplies engaged for & might be able to inform himself before the Time specified in Contracts for Delivery whether the Venders be in a Condition to comply with the Terms of their Contracts & in Case of a probability or Prospect of their failure be it his Care to give immediate notice to the Commanding Officer that proper & speedy measures may be taken to prevent any ill Consequence from such an Event. it will be also his Care to make the most of the Skins Tallow &c for the publick which well managed & disposed of will be a considerable Saving to the Government. the Regulating the Books & in Case of His Masters Absence the Care of delivering out Provisions to the Deputy will be sufficient Business for the Clerk, & when the Troops leave Wills Creek the Deputy must always receive & take Charge of the Provisions & to deliver it out at stated times to the Troops. This Affair of Victualing the Troops being a matter of the greatest Importance It will I doubt not be committed to a person of Honour & Ability, wherefore I hope you will take my Proposal into Consideration & if you approve thereof acquaint me what you think a sufficient Recompence or Sallary for such a Service, & if you have not engaged with any Gent<sup>n</sup> to act in such a Capacity I can I believe venture to recommend or appoint one whose Character, fortune, & Ability render him equal to the undertaking. Whoever shall be employed to purchase provision of any Kind for the future I think should be directed to insert in all their Contracts a Clause subjecting the Vender to a large Penalty in Case of his non-Compliance with the Conditions specified in the Contract that all extraordinary Expence incurred by his neglect or Inability might be defrayed by the penalty & the Governm<sup>t</sup> thereby indemnified. Care should

Letter Bk. II.

p. 33