

Service which however will not be all raised till that time Letter Bk. II.
twelvemonth. Gover^r Dinwiddie had also received £10000 from
England with Liberty to draw Bills for as much more out of
which he promised to remit all his Officers money immediately
to go Recruiting & flattered himself with hopes of being p. 76
able to Muster 500 or 600 Men in Virg^a in a month or 6
weeks from that time. Upon my Return to Annapolis I
called a new Assembly to meet the 10th of Decem^r with
sanguine hopes of finding them well disposed to grant suffi-
cient Supplies & in the intervening time I paid a Visit to
the Independant Companies who were encamped & building
themselves a kind of Fort & Barracks at Wills-Creek.
On my way I called at Alexandria where the Virginians were
quartered & to my Concern found that a very trifling Sum of
Money had been sent thither of which 6 or 8 Officers were to
have a Dividend & disperse themselves into the Country to com-
pleat their respective Companies. Being well assured from
Experience that little Success could be expected from their
Endeavours unless they were more liberally supplied with
Money I advanced them 98 pistoles & gave one of them
Liberty to draw on me for more money in proportion to his
Success which I expected Governor Dinwiddie would repay
me out of the Virg^a Fund. how little my first Visit to Wills
Creek encreased my hopes of being able to succeed in any
Attempt on the Enemy or to execute my Commission with any
Reputation I before hinted to you, scarce a Morsel of Pro-
vision was laid in but what I had ordered Cresap to provide,
indeed so great was the Scarcety of Flour at the Camp when
I arrived there that unless I had given Cresap Orders to
supply the Independant Companies from his Store they must
actually have deserted the Fort they had built in a Day or two
for want of Bread & I suppose you will not entertain a very
high Opinion of the Troops that I was to command when I tell
you that out of one of the Independant Companies only S^r
John S^r Clair on reveiwing them has discharged more than 40
as unfit for Service. At my Return I acquainted Governor
Dinwiddie with the State of those Affairs & desired him to
take some measures to recover if possible the publick Credit p. 77
which was sunk to the lowest Ebb, by the Inability or negli-
gence of the Chief Commissary of Stores & a parcel of Dirty
Fellows that being employed as his Deputies had contracted
Debts with the Country people for a thousand pounds &
upwards without making any payments. I also writ to the Com-
manding Officer of the Virg^a Troops to prepare to march on a
certain Day for the Camp where they may be employed in
building Store Houses & in any other Services. the 9th of
Dec^r I returned to Annapolis the Assembly mett the Day fol-