

came to Annapolis where Governor Shirley had promised to meet them to settle the plan of Operations for the Summer but he not arriving at the time appointed the General & Company returned again to Alexandria the Monday following & ordered the Troops to march westward, Colo Halketts Regiment & the Train thro Virg^a toward Wills-Creek & Col^o Dunbar's on this side potowmack River to the same place. The 11th & 12th Inst Governors Shirley, Delancey & Morris came hither & this Day Sennight I accompanied them to the General at Alexandria whence having agreed on the plan inclosed we returned to Annapolis Thursday & those several Gentⁿ are now on their way to their respective Govern^t. General Braddock departs from Alexandria to Day & I have promised to be with him next Tuesday Evening at Frederickton which is 80 Miles west of this place, there I shall tarry with him till the first of May when all the Troops will be in motion & when he will proceed to Wills-Creek & thence towards the Ohio I apprehend the General (dissatisfied that no such fund is already established) will solicit the Ministry to obtain an Act of Parliament whereby the several Colonies may be compelled to contribute towards a general Fund or Stock their several quotas in case such an Act should be moved for I cannot help wishing it might provide & ordain that the Quota imposed on each province be proportionable to the number of their Inhabitants respectively, & perhaps it might be left to the Assembly's Option in what manner to raise that Quota, but then to prevent useless Disputes & Controversies may not the several Governors & Councils be empowered to levy the Quota of Money by a poll Tax in case the several Branches of each Legislature cannot concur about Ways & Means within a certain limited time. I should be very much obliged to you for intimating to me what Step you think will be taken as to this Affair & in Case there be a prospect of a Rupture between the two Crowns which we are apt to think is not improbable, that you will send me early Intelligence thereof, or of any other Occurrences the Knowledge of which may be useful to &

You will observe in the minutes of the Council which the General held at Alexandria that it was agreed that in case of the Reduction of Fort Du Quesne whatever Garrison the General should think proper to leave there should be maintained & the Expence of Additional Works which He should think necessary to make there, should be defrayed by the Govern^{ts} of Virg^a Maryland & Pensilvania & that if the General should think it necessary to build a Fort upon Lake Erie the Expence thereof & garrisoning it should likewise be defrayed by those three Govern^{ts} these three Colonies being to be at the Expence of supporting such two forts I conceive it will be thought proper

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