

600. My Last Letter dated the 15th will inform you that at the little Meadows the General finding it impracticable for all the Troops to advance farther together selected 1200 of the Best & proceeded with as much of the Artillery Ammunition & provision as he thought necessary leaving the main Body of the Convoy under the Command of Colonel Dunbar who had Orders to join him as soon as possible. The four Howitzers & 4 twelve Pounders & 14 Cohorns that the General had with him with the Ammunition Baggage & Provision are fallen into the hands of the Enemy. when Colonel Dunbar (who I have reason to apprehend was about 40 miles behind the General) was apprized of this fatal Accident finding the Troops extremely reduced & weakened by this Action & Sickness he judged it impossible to attempt any thing with them at that time with Probability of Success is returning to Fort Cumberland with every thing that he is able to bring with him but as his Horses were reduced & much enfeebled & many Carriages wanted for the wounded Men, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Enemy he has destroyed most of the Ammunition & the superfluous Provision that was left to his Care Capt Orme does not describe to me the Situation of the Place where the Battle happened how great was the Number of the Enemy & whether they consisted principally of regular Troops or Indians. When I received this Account I was on my way to Fort Cumberland with a Number of Gentⁿ & Voluntiers who had entered into an Association to bear Arms & protect our Frontiers I shall now halt at Frederickton & if I find the Troops are not well supplied shall expend part of a Sum of Money (which the Council & Gentⁿ of the Country had subscribed upon the Assembly's Refusal at their last Meeting to grant any Supplies) in purchasing a Quantity of fresh Provisions & such things as I think necessary for the Troops & escort them with such Men as I can persuade to join me to Fort Cumberland where I expect in case I go thither to find Col^o Dunbar by that time arrived. I shall then learn what he proposes to do & if he shall resolve to make another Attempt before he can receive Instructions from home I shall perhaps be under a necessity of meeting the Assembly again & soliciting them to send him a Reinforcement & a quantity of Provisions & Ammunition. The Subscription that has been made will at least enable me to keep up a Company of Rangers for the Protection of the Frontiers, but I am afraid if Col^o Dunbar should retreat to Pens^a (which I do not think unlikely) the Distant Inhabitants will desert their Habitations rather than live in fear & Apprehensions of the Incursions of the French & their Indians

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I am Sir &c.