

Carolina Company away from Fort Cumberland & the place of their Destination, If no other good had been obtained thereby I am inclined to think that if he had left either of those Companies Desertions among the Provincials would have been much less frequent, for the Men would have been afraid of the Execution of martial Law on them as being in Conjunction with His Majestys Regular Forces, which the case being now different they think there is no reason to fear. You speak as if Dunbar had taken Mortars with him, I did not apprehend that any were imported neither did I before hear what you relate concerning the Enemy's destroying the Artillery that fell into their hands—Your Proposal to build a Fort somewhere beyond the Allegany Mountains this Fall I approve of & should be glad our People would contribute to the putting such a Scheme in Execution, but that I am convinced they will never do unless compelled by the Legislature of Great Britain or unless some Letters that I expect by Montgomery bring me such Instructions as will let me meet the Assembly on a very different Footing from what I have lately done. If the Generosity of the Virginians alone will enable you to construct & garrison such a place of Defence I think you cannot take any measure more for his Majesty's Service & the Security of these Colonies than setting it about it immediately, but at the same time I cannot help thinking that 'twill be expedient or rather absolutely necessary to have some strong place on this side the Mountains where the Stores & Provisions may be lodged in Safety: such a place Fort Cumberland is not, & never can be made, its Situation will not permit it (as I am persuaded every one of your Officers if you will ask them will tell you) & I know not of any so proper as that which I before acquainted you the Engineers had pointed out; if you entertain hopes of proceeding to construct a Fort beyond the Mountains, I presume you will endeavour to procure the assistance of one of them Gent<sup>n</sup> Coll Innes's Letters to me express vast Apprehensions of Danger, he seems to think the Enemy will make an Attempt on Fort Cumberland & I am apt to think, that if they do with any force it is as certainly their own. I do not hear that the Maryland Company has lost more than two Men by Desertions, we have beside them a Command of about 20 at a small Fort on Tonallaway Creek for the Protection & Satisfaction of the distant Inhabitants, w<sup>ch</sup> as well as the Company is supported out of the Subscription Fund, till something farther can be done for his Majestys Service & our Protection. I have not learnt that any Mischief has been lately done on our Frontiers but I am told the Country is entirely deserted for 30 Miles below Fort Cumberland since Col<sup>o</sup> Dunbar marched. I suppose your Express will inform you that he has now left Phil<sup>a</sup> & is proceeding to N York so that if he makes Dispatch

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