

Letter Bk. II. Companies may now be posted, but by what I can find the French may make themselves Masters thereof at a very small Expence & without much Difficulty just when they please, unless some of the Indians should insist on its being a place of Neutrality as they did during the late war between the two Crowns: should the Indians appear less desirous of reserving that place to the English at present (which indeed I am some-
 p. 142 what suspicious will be the Case) I apprehend the French will immediately dispossess us thereof as soon as they hear of your Arrival & that they have some thing to fear on Account of their late acquired possessions on the Ohio. had the General used less Dispatch in marching to Fort Du Quesne & employed his Men in making places of Defence at proper Distances as they marched the Enemy would have been kept in Suspence on the Ohio while things were carried on more privately to the Northward & till a Descent could have been made by water on Niagara but as General Braddock thro the impatience of the young people about him as 'tis said hurried on too fast & mis-carried so early in the Summer I am afraid there are e'er this more Troops at the Streight than Shirley is able or will undertake to deal with. Colonel Johnson I see by the Northern papers conceiving himself too weak to invest the French Fort at Crown Point is employing his Men in raising another about 20 Miles on this side thereof till he can be reinforced from the New England Governts. to whom he has made his Situation known & solicited immediate Succours. I inclose you our last Gazette which contains all the News we have lately received from Boston, which makes us flatter ourselves with
 p. 143 hopes that Admiral Boscawen will not let the Fleet that is at Louisburg escape in a Condition to do much mischief. About a month ago Governor Innes writ to me intimating that he thought Fort Cumberland would be attacked by a Body of French & Indians that had been discovered by one of his Scouting Parties, at the Meadows; Was the Enemy to make such an Attempt I am apt to think they would find little difficulty in making a Conquest, for from 300 provincials that were left to garrison the Fort when Dunbar marched with the Regular Troops scarcely 100 remain which we must attribute to the Opinion they entertain that being no longer in Conjunction with Regular Troops they are no longer Subject to the penalties of the Mutiny Bill & tho we & their Officers should entertain different Sentiments yet the Offenders could not be brought to condign punishment because none of the Officers are vested with a power to hold general Courts Martial. You may learn from M^r Calvert (to whom I have sent their proceedings to what a length the Dispute has been carried between Governor Morris & his Assembly, that nothing is to