

purchas'd and laid in Provisions for 1000 Men for one Year; as the Fort was the most safe Place they were deposited there, & a Commissary appointed at the Charge of this Country, he will not allow him to discharge his Duty but refuses any of the Provisions to be touch'd but by his Order; and tho' the Provisions are supply'd by this Country, he insists on a Right to supply his own Men from our Magazine, tho' Maryland pays no part of the Charge, he otherways acts in an Arbitrary manner, & insists on his Rank superior to any of our Officers, & he has not above thirty men, when Col: Washington has upwards of 500.

This Fort was built by Virtue of his Majesty's Instructions to me, & by my orders to Col: James Innes then in the pay of this Colony, & with a great Charge to this Country; it's true it happens to be in Maryland, but I presume his Majesty has a Right to build a Fort where he pleases in any of his Colonies; & the Guns mounted are Guns sent by his Majesty for the Service of Virginia; it cannot reasonably be suggested that his Majesty intended them for the Proprietor of Maryland.

General Braddock gave a Commission to Col: Innes to be Governor of the Fort; his private Affairs calling him to his Estate in North Carolina, he appointed Lieut: Col: Stephens to command in his Absence: Cap^t Dagworthy with his pretended Rank wrested the Command from him without any Rule but his Commission of Captain in the Canada Expedition, tho' not on the half pay list, but receiv'd a Sum of Money in lieu; by his accepting that Money I am of Opinion he revok'd the Commission.

This Affair makes such noise here that I thought it necessary to send Col. Washington to you, who can be more particular: If I was to call the Assembly now, I know this Affair has rais'd the Rancour of the People so much that they would go into Extremes of Resentment & do no Business for the Service: I am sorry I have occasion to be so long on this Affair, but as it makes much Noise here, & without you interpose your Authority I do not know what will be the Consequence; as formerly, I desire the Favour of a Brevet Commission to Col: Washington & to the other Field Officers, & that you would please to reinstate Col. Stephens to the Command of the Fort 'till Governor Innes returns: As Commander in Chief of the Forces this is in your power only, & without some Regulation in regard to this unhappy Dispute, I shall not be able to do any thing with our Assembly.

I forgot to mention, that Fort Cumberland being a King's Fort, I cannot conceive that the Proprietor's Governor can have any Right to appoint a Governor, & more so as it has been built by this Government; the Right is in you, and I doubt not you will assume it in order to restore Peace.