

Letter Bk. III bar at Fort Cumberland to consider of the Expediency of his leaving that place & marching the two Regiments to Phil^a does not a little surprize me because I am confident that I never advised him to take that Step & that I never subscribed such an Opinion as you mention. Col^o Dunbar had determined to retire from Fort Cumberland & proceed to Phil^a before I saw him, indeed I was advised thereof several Days before I got to the Camp & had scarcely any thoughts of finding him there at my Arrival, I have been told that immediately on his Return to Fort Cumberland after the Action he sent to Capt Orme to know how the General intended to have disposed of the Troops if he had lived, & that on Capt Orme's answering he would have left the Provincials at the Fort & marched the Regulars to Pens^a for Winter-Quarters, the Colonel declared that he would do the same & instantly give Orders for the Troops to hold themselves in Readiness to march, whether this was true I cannot say but I well remember & so do those that were with me that as soon as I reached the Camp & waited on Col^o Dunbar he informed me that he had determined to march from Fort Cumberland & that he hoped to be in Phil^a within a few Weeks. During my Stay at the Fort he received a Letter from Governor Dinwiddie wherein he was urged in very strong Terms to march & recover the Cannon & Stores that had fallen into the Enemy's hands & to attempt again the Reduction of Fort Du Quesne. The next morning by his Desire I met Col^o Gage & S^r John S^t Clair at his Tent & when he asked us "Whether we thought it was advisable & for his Majesty's Service that he should immediately proceed to Fort Du Quesne" I as well as the other Gentⁿ answered in the Negative & I am apt to beleive that after reading the inclosed Copy of my Letter to Governor Dinwiddie you will not think We gave an improper Answer. As I presume Col^o Dunbar will be questioned on his Return to England & asked what Motives induced him to leave Fort Cumberland I doubt not but he will do all the Gentⁿ that he desired to attend the Council which he called there, the Justice to acknowledge that he never asked their Opinion about marching the Regiments to Phil^a I am convinced that they all disapproved of that Step & that if he had thought proper to have consulted them thereon they would have unanimously advised him against it. Upon Dunbar's expressing (after the Council) a good deal of Astonishment & some Resentment at a Paragraph of Governor Dinwiddie's Lett^r wherein he had intimated that the Colonel ought to have advised the several Governors on the Continent of the General's ill Success & of his own Intentions & Resolutions thereon I could not help observing that as to that I thought Governor Dinwiddie's Expectations were not at all unreasonable as General Braddock