

or near the place where the Fort stood they set up & left a French Flag & also as it is said a French Lett^r but of the Lett^r Gov^r Morris says nothing. This Accident & some Ravages that have been lately committed in Cumberland County has it seems so terrified the Pensilvanians who were settled in that part of the Country that they are deserting their Habitations very fast & will probably e'er long unless the Assembly makes better provision for their Defence all retire over the Susquehanna which Governor Morris says he expects will be their extreme Frontier. As the Inhabitants have evacuated a Fort that was built at M^cDowel's Mill & which kept the Communication open between the Inhabitants & Forts Shirley & Littleton M^r Morris seems in pain for those two places which he says if all Communication with them should be cut off would become an easy Conquest but to prevent so fatal an Accident I propose if the Council whom I am just about to meet approve thereof to order one of our Officers & a Detachment of 50 men from Fort Frederick to M^cDowels or some other of their Forts till their Assembly which is met come to some Resolution & can send their Back-Inhabitants some assistance, Fort Granville was according to the Information I have heretofore been able to get situated a little to the Northw^d of the Juniata & about 23 Miles west from the mouth of that River. Forts Lyttelton & Shirley lie to the Southward of Juniata, the latter about 20 miles Eastward of Ray's Town & 25 North of one I had built near Potowmack on Tonallaway Creek, which our Assembly by the Act they made last Session for granting a Supply for the Defence of this Province obliged me to abandon & destroy because it was five or Six Miles beyond our present Settlements The Fort which I have been building & which I have left our Troops to finish is almost close on Potowmack & upon the North Mountain We face the Bastions & Curtains with Stone & shall mount on each of the Bastions a Six pounder. The Barracks will receive & lodge very commodiously 200 Men beside Officers & on Occasion near twice that number. I do not know whether our Commissioners will have Money enough to compleat it agreeable to my Plan, as yet I think it has not cost more than £1000 & even that some of our Patriots seem to think a large Sum & have intimated to their Constituents that a Stoccado Fort would have been sufficient & might have been built at a much less Expence. however I persuade myself that this Accident which has happened in Pensilvania will incline those Gent^l to change their Opinion, & convince them that excessive Frugality is not always the best Oeconomy. I do not learn from Col^o Ludwell that Lord Loudon expects much from these two Colonies this year, if His Ldp writes to you otherwise or if you think of