

last a small Party of Catawba Indians who had come from Carolina to go out to War with some of the Virginians from Fort Cumberland proceeded towards Fort Du Quesne to annoy the Enemy in their own Country & if possible to get a Prisoner, a little below the French Fort they fell in with twelve French Indians who happened to be hunting in that part of the Country & killed four of them without suffering any Loss themselves; flushed with this Success they pushed on for the Fort with a Design as I have already observed to seize a Sentry from whom they may get Intelligence, but on the way they were surprized by a very large Party of the Enemy who had been alarmed as was supposed by the Eight that had escaped in the first Action, & two of the Catawbaes with four of the Virginians were killed on the Spot, the Rest of the Catawbaes being Seven in Number returned to Fort Cumberland but it is supposed that the Virginian who according to the Indians Account survived the Engagement has perished in the woods as he has not been since heard of. The Catawbaes are since gone home but it is said that they expressed themselves well satisfied with the Behaviour of the English that went out with them & have promised to return to Fort Cumberland again in the Spring. If the Vessels by which my former Letters were sent have not miscarried I hope your Ldp is e'er this informed that the Fellow who was taken in October last at Fort Cumberland & who thereupon accused several Roman Catholicks of Mal-Practices has at length proved a most infamous & wicked Impostor. I shall herewith send Copies of the Depositions & other Papers that I have before transmitted which I flatter myself will satisfy your Ldp that we used our utmost Endeavours to discover the Truth. Lord Loudoun has desired me to send the Villain to Phil^a where I presume he will be tried for Desertion & punished accordingly. Towards the End of December His Ldp was pleased to order Seven Companies of the Royal Americans to this Province to take up their Winter Quarters at Charles Frederick George & Chester Towns in Cæcil & Kent Counties. His Ldp chose to have them all quartered on the Eastern Shore that they may be assembled at Phil^a more readily when the Season shall permit His Ldp to open the Campaign. The Companies instead of 100 do not exceed 50 Men each but as the Towns are very small even that Number has been with great Difficulty supplied with such Necessaries and Conveniences as Soldiers expect to be furnished with in Winter Quarters I did at the Request of Major Prevost their Commanding Officer & with the Advice of your Ldp's Council issue a Proclamation for the Assembly to meet the 24th of last Month that I might recommend it to them to make some

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