

ing to Appointment on Account of the Small-Pox I prorogued Letter Bk. III them to the 8th of last Month, & then met them at this Place, they have at length framed a Bill whereby I shall be empowered to augment the Troops in the pay of this Province to 500 Men but they are exceedingly averse to having any of them posted at Fort Cumberland, I have signified to them that Capt Dagworthy has already Possession of that place in obedience to Lord Loudoun's orders, but they do not choose to take any Notice of my Message. As the Agents named in our Bill will contract with a Person to victual our Troops as they have before done I can say nothing about the Salt, Flour Biskett Hog's Lard & Tallow that has been delivered to Capt Dagworthy but I shall desire the Person who may contract to wait on Col^o Washington or the Officer commanding at Winchester & with your Approbation to agree with him for the same. I presume the Fish & Beans are part of the Stores that Gen^l Braddock left, Capt Dagworthy will keep an Account of what quantity of either he draws for but I suppose that quantity will not be great. He informs me that there is a considerable Number of Cherokee Catawba & Nottoway Indians with him at present & that they expect to be joined by many others from their respective Tribes, who upon your Invitation have declared in our favour & are come from home to act in Conjunction with the Forces that are supported for the Defence of these Colonies. As our Assembly is so excessively parcimonious that they will not give any Officer or the Commissary Leave to furnish any Persons whatsoever with Provisions beside the Men borne on the Muster Rolls & will agree to Nothing wherein Fort Cumberland is mentioned, Dagworthy is much distressed & knows not what to do with the Indians who visit him, to deny them Provisions when they are come by our Invitation & to serve us would in all Probability be attended with very bad Consequences, & I have no Fund or Sum of Money under my Command as Governor of this Province out of which I could order a Shilling to be paid on the most pressing occasion therefore I must submit this Affair to your Consideration hoping you will be able to free Capt Dagworthy from the Difficulties in which he finds himself at present involved. We have not yet received any certain Advice of the Arrival of the Fleet expected from England nor of the Embarkation of any Men in the Northern Colonies. I understand that the Earl of Loudoun remains at N York & Col^o Stanwix with the first Battalion of Royal Americans at Phila^a—

I am &c—