

the Troops in the pay of this Province as a Standing Garrison Letter Bk. III
in that Fort & I have been obliged to desire Col^o Stanwix to order a Command to relieve Capt Dagworthy as soon as possible or at least to send some Officer to take the Command for till he be superceeded no Provisions can be issued by the Agents for him or his Company. I have endeavoured to convince the Assembly of the Impropriety of such a Prohibition seeing Lord Loudoun had made the Disposition & had ordered Dagworthy to take possession of the Fort but they were deaf to all the Arguments I could use & lest they should appear more tractable than the Pensilvanians (who have refused I am told to transport any Men to Carolina) they took the Liberty to tell me that Lord Loudoun must be little acquainted with the Situation of Fort Cumberland & the Frontiers of Maryland or else he never could expect or desire the Inhabitants of this Province to support Troops to garrison that Place. They have however put it in the power of Col^o Stanwix to draw as many of our Men when they are raised out of the Province as I shall choose to part with or I may order a Detachment from every Company to do Duty at Fort Cumberland for a Month & then to be relieved by other Detachments & upon these Conditions or Considerations I have this Morning assented to their Bill. I have received a Message from Sixty two Cherokees who are come into Fort Frederick wherein they tell me that they have taken up the Hatchet against the French & their Indian Allies & that they are come from home by your Invitation to prosecute the War against them. I shall send them an Answer with a Present to the Value of £100 which is all that our Assembly have thought proper to appropriate to their use. I have also ordered the Commissary at Fort Frederick to supply them with Provisions during their Stay on our Frontiers. I have this Instant received Advice from Fort Cumberland that Part of the Garrison under the Command of a Captain Lieutenant & Ensign had a Skirmish near that place the fourth of this Month with a Party of Indians who had killed three Soldiers that were cutting Wood at a little Distance from the Fort. After Skirmishing some time our people being much inferiour in Number to the Enemy retreated to the Fort with two of the Detachment wounded, the Indians disappeared soon afterwards leaving a Matchcoat & a few Trinketts on the Place where the action happened. About half an hour after Sergeant Fent of the Virginia Regiment & a Catawba who were both taken Prisoners in November last & carried to Fort Du Quesne came into Fort Cumberland. I presume you will receive an Account of this & a Copy of Fents Deposition before my Letter can reach you, wherefore I will no longer detain the Post but conclude with assuring you that I am &c