

Letter Bk. III 21st Oct^r & wherein I pressed them to make immediate Provision for the farther Support of the Garrison at Fort Cumberland & the other Troops that have been raised for the Defence of this Colony, I can at present do no more than acknowledge the Receipt of your Ldp's two Letters dated the 16th of Oct^r & 3^d Inst, & inform Your Ldp that I hear the Assembly have at length framed a Bill agreeable to the Resolve which they had made when I writ last & that they seem determined to adhere to their Resolution. The opinion which some of our Lawyers gave on a Part of the Act which was made here last Summer was very different from what Your Ldp seems to apprehend, it relates only to the Power of our Agents to pay & victual those of our Troops that were at Fort Cumberland & not at all to the Power of Your Ldp or any other Officer to march them thither. The occasion of the Agents addressing themselves to Lawyers for such opinion was this, When Col^o Stanwix advised me of his having sent Capt Dagworthy peremptory orders to remain at Fort Cumberland with a Part of the Troops that were in the pay of this Province & to pay no manner of Regard to the Resolutions of our Assembly or of the orders of any Person besides himself I sent for the Agents & told them that I expected they would take Care to have the Garrison of Fort Cumberland duly paid & supplied with Provisions. As they seemed to look upon themselves as Servants to the Assembly & to think that they had nothing else to do but to act agreeable to the of those by whom they were nominated, I cautioned them to beware & declared that if they refused or neglected to supply the Troops at Fort Cumberland I would certainly order the Attorney Gen^l to prosecute them. This put them upon consulting Lawyers & they were by them told as I have already hinted that it was not their Business to enquire whether the Troops were stationed agreeable to the Directions of the Act of Assembly or not, but to victual & pay them at Fort Cumberland or any other Place. As this My Ld is really the Case & as my communicating that part of your Ldps Lett to the Assembly would most certainly bring the Resentment of many Persons on the Gentⁿ with whom Your Ldp was pleased to converse at N York on this Subject I must take the Liberty to suppress that Clause if I should find it expedient to send a Copy of Your Ldp's Letter to the Assembly before I have the Satisfaction to see Your Ldp at Annapolis & the honour to receive your farther Commands. As Your Ldp is pleased to approve of my Resolution to dissent to any Bill that might be offered if the Service of our Provincial is to be thereby restrained I shall forthwith send Orders to three or four Companies of Militia to hold them-