

Letter Bk. III offer with such other exceptionable Clauses as neither the Upper House nor myself can consistently with our Duty & the Constitution of this Govern^t agree to. But not to trouble you with Conjectures the Reasonableness of which Time only can shew, I beg leave to inform you that I have this Day sent Letters to Capt Dagworthy & the other Officers on our Frontiers as well as to M^r Ross, & tho I did not think it advisable to assure the Officers that they will certainly receive all the pay that shall become due to their respective Companies while they continue where they are now posted, yet I am satisfied that M^r Ross will not after he receives my Letter suffer any of our Troops to want Provisions, & as well satisfied that none of our Men will desert for want of Pay at least till our Gent^lⁿ shall have come to some Resolution in consequence of His Ldp's Letter. As the Earl of Loudoun is pleased to leave it to me either to keep up all our Troops till the Assembly shall meet again or such a part of them only as might be necessary to garrison Fort Cumberland I am of opinion that I ought not to reduce them nor make any alteration whatever before I have once more tried whether the Lower House are absolutely determined to persevere in their obstinacy. If when they meet again they should appear so disposed I shall send you immediate Advice thereof that if you think proper orders may be then given for three compleat Companies to be formed out of the best of our Men who with their proper Officers may continue to garrison Fort Cumberland as long as the Earl of Loudoun shall be pleased to support them. As it is now a month since I writ to His Ldp & as I could not tell but he might on the Receipt of my Letter have desired you to pursue the Instructions which he communicated to you the 3^d of Nov^r I sent orders a few Days ago to two Companies of Militia to march to the Frontiers that Fort Frederick might not have been left without a Garrison in Case our Troops should have been disbanded, I could now wish these orders had not been issued but since they are I will not countermand them & tho these Companies of Militia will be of no use on our Frontiers just now yet they will be on the Spot ready to relieve the Troops in Fort Frederick at an Hours warning in Case the Assembly should decline coming into reasonable measures or refuse to make any Provision for their farther Support. As His Ldp takes no notice of a part of my Letter wherein I desired to know his pleasure about a French Prisoner & a Deserter that Capt Dagworthy sent hither about the middle of Decem^r I intend to order one of our Sheriffs to convey them to Lancaster that you might dispose of them as you shall think fit. I have agreeable to Your Desire dispatched an Express with the Packett directed to Gover^r Dinwiddie & am &c.