

rency or £2835 St^s & that the Agent Victualler's Account for ^{Letter Bk. III} supplying with Provisions from the 8th of Oct^r last to that time amounts to £2970. 15 Currency exclusive of a Hospital Account & the Expence of carrying Provisions from Fort Frederick to Fort Cumberland. There is likewise a considerable sum due to him for Victualling the several Parties of Indians that have been at those Forts since the Beginning of April 1757, but what the exact Sum is I do not as yet know. You have been already told that our Lower House of Assembly gave it as their opinion in October last that no Forces which should be placed as a Garrison in Fort Cumberland could contribute in any manner whatever to the Security of the Province, they Resolved also at the same time that they would neither pay nor victual any men that should be thereafter sent or ordered to garrison that place. When I sent the Earl of Loudoun Advice of the Assembly's having come to such a Resolution & intreated him to order some of His Majesty's regular Troops to march & take Possession of that place lest the Maryland Forces should hear that the Assembly had granted no money for their farther Support & should thereupon abandon it His Ldp was pleased to tell me that it was extremely inconvenient to move the Troops at such a Distance at that Season of the year & that therefore if I would keep up the Maryland Forces or as many of them as might be necessary to garrison Fort Cumberland he would engage to pay them & to pay for the Provisions that might be delivered to them while they should continue in the Service as you will see by the inclosed Copy of His Ldp's Letter. In obedience to His Ldp's orders & to the orders of the Generals who succeeded him in the Command of His Majesty's Forces in America our Troops have been kept up till this time, most of them have remained constantly at Fort Cumberland & many of the Rest have been employed in conveying them Provisions, our Assembly have met twice since I received the Earl of Loudoun's Letter but all my Endeavours to prevail with them to grant a Sum of money to pay off the Arrears that were due to our Troops & to M^r Ross for Victualling them proved fruitless. It would be unnecessary to trouble you with a Detail of all that passed between the Assembly & me while they were sitting relative to our Troops but it might not perhaps be amiss to inform you that in an Address which the Lower House of Assembly presented me the 17th of April they spoke of the five Companies which were at that time & are still in Garrison at Fort Cumberland & Fort Frederick as Companies in the Service & Pay of this Province & said that they presumed it was the reasonable Dependance which those Soldiers had that the several Branches of the Legislature