

Assembly would never be prevailed on again to augment them I thought it would be best to let them remain as they were till the Assembly (which was then about to meet again) could be tried once more & I wrote to the Earl of Loudoun & Col^o Stanwix accordingly, at the same time I told them that if the Assembly should not upon another Trial come into reasonable measures but persist in the Resolution they had lately taken in that Case I should send Colo Stanwix immediate Advice thereof, that he might if it was thought proper give orders for three compleat Companies of 100 Men each to be formed out of the best of our Soldiers who with their proper Officers might remain at Fort Cumberland as long as His Ldp should think proper to support them. I never received any Letter after this time from the Earl of Loudoun which made me conclude that his Ldp approved of my Proposal to let all our Troops remain as they were untill the Assembly should again meet; but in a Letter which Colo Stanwix was pleased to send me the 30th of Jan^r he signified his Approbation in these words "I think you judge very properly for the Publick in not diminishing any of your Provincial Forces till you have tried your Lower House to the uttm^ot. About the time that I had wrote to the Officers in Consequence of the Letters which I had received from the Earl of Loudoun a Member of the Assembly went among the Soldiers & told them that since no money had been raised to pay them they were not obliged to continue any longer in the Service & that if they did continue he was well assured the Assembly would never agree to pay them. After this Doctrine had been propagated among them the officers found that it would be impossible to retain many of the Men to their Duty without advancing them their Pay as it became due, therefore as I had desired them to keep their respective Companies together & had given them great Reason to hope that His Majesty's General would not let them be Sufferers, they scrupled not to pay their men as long as they had Money to do so, & to give them Orders on the Pedlars that were settled about the Forts for such Necessaries as they at any time stood in need of, by these means the men were kept pretty quiet & indeed they had little reason to complain, but the Officers have deeply involved themselves & unless Your Excellency will fulfill the Earl of Loudoun's Engagement & reimburse them, they & their Families must be very great Sufferers or perhaps be entirely ruined, for nothing else can be expected but that as soon as they march in Obedience to Your Excellency's Orders & are without the Limits of the Province their several Creditors will endeavour to secure themselves in the best manner they can by attaching all the Effects that the Officers shall leave behind them. This