

Letter Bk. I. unluckily the Store Ship did not arrive at Phila^a till late in June & the Waters of Potowmack are now so low that Battoes (w^{ch} carry 4 or 5 Tun each) cannot pass & I question whether Canoes which do not carry more than 2000^{lbs} each can be got up. As soon however as the Stores were brought p. 360 hither I sent a Party of the Militia down the River & collected all the Canoes that could be found which were but Ten in Number. On the 1st of Iuly they were all loaded & I sent them off under Convoy of a few of the Royal Americans & a Party of our Men that had been building a Bridge 80 Feet long over a Stream called Licking Creek which runs into Potowmack about three Miles above this Fort & over which the intended new Road must pass. On the 3^d Inst. two Companies of the Men that have been raised for the Expedition by the three Lower Counties on Delaware came hither as Convoy to 27 Waggons loaded with Stores which likewise came from Carlyle to be sent hence if possible to Fort Cumberland by water. As the Men seemed a good deal fatigued having scarcely halted since they came from Newcastle they all encamped here till the 5th Inst when I proposed to their Commanding Officer & to the Officer of the Remainder of the Royal American Detachment to march beyond the Bridge which our People had been building & to work upon the Road that the General as well as Colo Bouquet & S^r John S^t Clair had now by a particular Letter desired me to open. As I am sensible that the Inhabitants of Pens^a would not wish to see a better Road made from the Inhabited Parts of Maryland to the Yogyogany River than can be made thro that Province I doubt not but Capt Shelby's Proposal (if the Road is not opened for want of Men or for any other Reason) will be reprinted to the General in an unfavourable Light, & the Attempt to open a new Road as impracticable. I determined since I had nothing else to do to reconnoitre the Country Myself & accordingly on the 5th Inst. I, Capt Shelby & the Officer of the two Companies above mentioned took a Party of Militia & a few Soldiers & went within 20 Miles of p. 361 Fort Cumberland so that I can now venture to say from my own Knowledge that a good Road might be made thither by fewer Men & in less time than Capt Shelby had allotted but whether it will be in my power to have such a Road opened this Summer I cannot tell as none of the 400 Men that were promised are yet arrived except the two Companies & the small Detachment abovementioned, which together do not amount to many more than 200 Men. Had our Assembly when they met last impowered me to augment our Troops as any reasonable People would have done I should have opened this Road before the General had been persuaded by the