

& what is due to him for Victualling all the Indians that have been at this Place or Fort Cumberland since April 1757, likewise of what he has actually paid for Carrying Provisions to Fort Cumberland ever since that place has been garrisoned by Maryland Forces, which three Articles will amount I suppose to near £3000 Currency & for this he only desired at present £850 St^s which Your Excellency was pleased to agree to advance & 'twas in Consequence of that Agreement & in Expectation that you would have wrote to M^r Kilby or M^r Howell to advance it that I drew on M^r Howell for that Sum. I have endeavoured Sir to explain to you in the clearest manner what I have done in Consequence of the Proposals made by Your Excellency & M^r Kilby as I understood them; You have learnt from D^r Ross's Letter what Difficulties he has been brought into, it has been given out it seems in Phila^a that he & I together intended & endeavoured to defraud M^r Howell of a very considerable Sum & I doubt not but Doctor Ross's being imprisoned will put the matter beyond all Dispute with many in this Province at least all the Doctor's Enemies & mine will seem to believe it, & indeed this will be using us very generously if I compare it with what happened here some time since when an occasion was taken from my coming with a Party of Militia to the Frontiers to propagate a Report in several Parts of the Province that I was actually gone to Fort Du Quesne to join his Majesty's Enemies. I could mention some more Instances to convince you that the Doctors Anxiety about the Consequences of his being imprisoned on this occasion as for an intended Fraud is not without Reason, His Enemies in the Lower House of Assembly are not few & he has probably many Rivals in Trade that would be glad of an Opportunity to injure his Credit; but not to detain the Express any longer or keep the Doctor longer in Suspence than was unavoidable I shall only add that if a most earnest Desire to promote His Majesty's Service, if an Inclination to oblige all with whom he has been concerned or if the strictest honesty could have kept him out of Prison he would not at this time be in Custody at Phila^a the Attendance he has been obliged to give at Annapolis, here, at Carlyle & at Phila^a this Summer in order to get a part of what is most justly due to him & for the payment whereof both the Earl of Loudoun & General Stanwix engaged has made him neglect his Business in such a manner that he must be a great Sufferer & the Ships which he should have loaded with Tobacco before this time may probably for want of his presence at home be detained after the Convoy sails for Europe. These Considerations will I am persuaded incline Your Excellency to write to M^r Howell in such Terms