

N Carolina are the only Corps that have any Reason to complain of Sickness. But I am sorry to inform you that General Forbes has not yet left Shippensburg (which lies upwards of 75 Miles to the Eastward of Rays Town) being laid up there by the Flux with which he was attacked more than a month ago at Carlyle. He tells me however in a Letter dated the 23^d Inst that he now finds himself recovering & that he hopes he shall be strong enough to travel in a few Days, he has likewise intimated to me that he expects a sufficient Quantity of Stores & Provisions will be carried on to the Fort which S^r John S^r Clair is building at Laurel hannon in less than a Fortnight & that being determined to proceed directly afterwards to Fort Du Quesne & willing to march with as strong a Force as possible he should be extremely glad if I could garrison Fort Cumberland with Militia for three weeks or a month that he might draw all the Virginia Troops from that post to strengthen the Rear of his Army. As our Assembly when they met last made some Resolves declaring our Militia Law to be obsolete or not in Force & denying that I have any Authority or Right with the Advice of the Council to march any of the militia even if our Law was in Force unless in Case of an actual Invasion or as they construe that Expression unless a very large Body of the Enemy was actually in the Heart of the Province. I have told the General that I am afraid no more of the Militia would be prevailed on to come even thus far if I was to attempt to carry 'em to Fort Cumberland, but I am endeavouring to get 200 or 250 Voluntiers to accompany me to Fort Cumberland & to stay there till the Affair is decided & I am in hopes that I shall be able to march hence with that Number in about a week which will be as soon as the General will want to draw the Virginians from Fort Cumberland. In that Case I shall appoint one of the Field Officers of our Militia to take the Command at this Fort, which has been garrisoned by Militia ever since I came hither the 15th of June, & I have the Satisfaction to inform you that altho they were dissuaded from coming out & encouraged to desert since they have been here by several Members, of our Assembly who seem to have made it a Point that if the Gentlemen of the Upper House would not accept such a Bill as they had offered they would on their Parts obstruct all measures that should be taken for the Defence of the Province yet the several Companies whose Lott it has been to march hither & to take their Tour of Duty have paid due Regard to my Commands, & altho several Parties of the Enemy have been discovered this Summer within the Limits of the Province None of them have ventured down among the Inhabitants nor presumed to do any Mischief near the Settle-