

than 70 miles to the Eastward very ill of the Flux as he has been this month but in a Letter which I have received from him dated the 23^d of this Month he tells me that he is now recovering Strength & that he hopes he shall be able to travel in a very few Days. He likewise tells me that as he expects a sufficient quantity of Provisions & Stores will be lodged at Laurel Hannon in about a Fortnight he shall then proceed directly to Fort Du Quesne as he is willing to march with as great a Force as he can he says he shall be much obliged to me for garrisoning Fort Cumberland with Militia for a few weeks which will enable him to strengthen the Rear of his Army with the Virginia Troops that are now there. The Resolves which the Lower House of Assembly made at the last Session denying my Power to order any of the Militia to march unless in Case of an actual Invasion or according to their Construction untill the Enemy has actually made themselves Masters of a great part of the Province has had no small Influence on the People & it has not been without Difficulty that I have got some Companies of Militia to march hither & garrison this Place since the Assembly broke up. Was I therefore to order any of them to Fort Cumberland I am afraid none of them would be afterwards prevailed on to come even thus far. Such being my Situation I have told the General that I cannot undertake to garrison Fort Cumberland with Militia, but as I am extremely anxious about the Success of this Expedition & desirous that the General should march with his whole Force I am endeavouring to engage 200 or 250 Voluntiers to go to Fort Cumberland in which Attempt I hope I shall succeed & by way of Encouragement I have promised to take the Command of them myself & to remain with them at Fort Cumberland as long as their Service there shall be thought necessary which will not be more than a few Days after the Affair is decided & I persuade myself that I do not find that any late Intelligence has been received concerning the Strength of the Enemy but I understand that a Company of about 50 Voluntiers whom I prevailed on to go from this Province to join the General & to serve without Pay went from the Laurel hannon a few Days ago with a Resolution to proceed to Fort Du Quesne in order to make Discoveries & get a Prisoner. I am sorry to inform Your Ldp that there are at present with our Troops no more than six Indians three of whom are Cherokees & the other three Delawares but it is said that about 40 Catawbaes are just arrived at Winchester & that these intend to continue with the General to the End of the Campaign. Your Ldp will I presume have heard before this can reach you of the Repulse

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