

Letter Bk. I. pensburg but in a Letter which I have received from him dated the 23^d Inst he tells me that he is now on the Recovery & that he hopes he shall be able to proceed to Raes Town in a few Days. I suppose the Rear of the Army will move on immediately after his Arrival there & I am not without hopes that in less than a Month from that time he will be within Sight of Fort Du Quesne. As the General has been obliged to leave 700 Men on the Frontiers of Pens^a to garrison the Stocades that have been built in that Province & is very unwilling to weaken himself more by leaving a Garrison at Fort Cumberland if it could possibly be avoided I have at his Request promised to go up with 200 or 250 Voluntiers from the Militia of this County & to garrison that Post untill the Affair is decided, I shall contrive to be there just before the Rear of the Army moves from Raes Town so that the Virginians which are at present at Fort Cumberland may join the Army either at Rays Town or very soon after the General leaves that Place. I cannot tell exactly how long I shall be detained at Fort Cumberland because it will depend on the Quickness of the Generals motions, but he has promised to send back a sufficient Number of Men to relieve the Voluntiers that I am to carry up so soon as he has had a Decisive Action be the Event of it what it will. In the mean time I shall leave the Command of this Fort & of the Company of Militia that is here to one of the Field Officers of Frederick County. Besides the 320 Soldiers which are distinguished by the Appellation of the Maryland Troops I have had influence enough to raise among our Frontier Inhabitants & to send the General a Company of 50 Voluntiers who are all excellent Marksmen & accustomed to the Woods, they chose for their Captain one of our Provincial Lieutenants who is extremely well acquainted with the Woods & I am informed that this Company went on from the Laurel Hannon towards Fort Du Quesne last Tuesday in order to make Discoveries. It is said but I know not whether the Report is to be depended on that the French have only a very few Indians on the Ohio at this time. This however is certain that there are no more than 6 Indians with our Forces but it is said that a Party of about 40 Catawbaes are just come to Winchester with a Design to join them. You will have seen an Account of the Ticonderoga Affair long before this can reach you & as I know nothing more of it than what has been communicated to the Publick in the News Papers I shall only say that General Abercromby's Conduct is much censured in the first place for not taking time to discover the Enemys Situation better before he attacked them & again for bringing back his whole Army to this Side of Lake George immediately after