

Horse litter, being so weakened by my distemper that I neither can ride nor bear the roughness of my slop-waggon. However I hope a few days will make a great change.

I have wrote to Col^o Bouquet of your kind agreement of Garrisoning Fort Cumberland for the first month of my absence, and that 250 of your men would be there by the 10th or 12th Instant, ordering the Commissary to furnish them with provisions and a Gill of spirits each p day during their stay in that service, If there be any thing more wanted let me know, or if when there, you find any other thing necessary you will be so good as to order it, as the Commissary shall have directions to do whatever you require. Pray let me know if you have heard of the Blanketts.

I give you joy of Louisbourg which is certainly a great Acquisition and may be of some service to me, for as I dont hear that they have reinforced Fort Du Quesne with any Regulars, I fancy their chief reliance may be upon the Western Indians from Detroit, who as M^r Croghan writes me will certainly leave them soon; this with the numbers of Delaware nations and other tribes going now to treat with us at East town prevents my hurrying measures for some days, least by a precipitate blow I might prevent the success of the treaty at East town; and the only thing I dread the French will do, is they will persuade the West country Indians in Conjunction with the shawenese to come and attack the head of my Army now taking post on the other side Laurell hill, before that the Indians return home, what are your sentiments thereupon? wether to proceed with the whole, or temporize a few days longer, untill that we see how the East town treaty turns out, where I wish heartily you could have been, as you must know any Indian friendship at this critical time might prove a great diminition to the strength of the French.

I foresee I shall be in great distress for want of waggons, the Horses of those with me being ruined as they say for want of forage, a neglect that Sir John S^t Clair can never answer for, who was sent from Philadelphia by me to make magazines of Forage all along the march route and to have a great Quantity in store at Raestown,

I am D^r S^{ir}
Y^r most obed^t &
most hum^{le} Serv^t
Jo: fforbes.

F F the 4th Sep^t 1758.

S^r

This will be presented by M^r Cary the Person that I engaged to go down the Country & get the Blanketts that Your Excel-