

being at Fort Cumberland with 200 men at least the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Letter Bk. III

Inst. I suppose the Virginians or most of them will have received Orders to march to Rays Town as soon as they shall be relieved, but I should be obliged to you for ordering the Surgeon or his Mate at least to remain with us. All the Blanketts that could be got being 489 will be dld at Fort Loudoun to Morrow Evening where the Person that I employed to collect them will wait on Your Excellency for Payment. I heartily congratulate you on the Success of His Majesty's Arms in the Reduction of Cape Breton & I am glad you have Reason to think that the French have not sent any Regular Troops this Summer from Canada to the Ohio. If Your Excellency was thorowly satisfied that the Indians which are to be at Easton would immediately after the Conclusion of that Treaty either join you or go back among the other Western Indians & endeavour to draw them off from the French it would perhaps be worth while to postpone Your March a few Days if you apprehend that by moving on you shall give Offence, but if it be doubtful whether these Indians that are about to treat will declare themselves our Friends or Enemies, It would not be advisable in my opinion to let any Advantage slip in hopes that they will be thereby obliged, if they are real Friends they must be pleased at your proceeding & if they think proper they may bring the Treaty to an Issue & either join you or go among the Western Indians before you can possibly get to Fort Du Quesne, but if they s<sup>d</sup> find that you halt untill you know the Event of their Treaty & they are not sincerely disposed to join us they will probably protract the Treaty & thereby give the Enemy time to bring down a Body of Indians from Canada as well as from the Westward or perhaps some Regular Troops & it is not impossible that they may afterwards behave in a worse manner than the Cherokees have lately done. As Your Excellency was pleased to desire my opinion I have taken the Liberty to say what occurs to me but at the same time I would have You consider that it has never lain in my Way to be conversant with Indians nor have I ever heard what Reason the Gover<sup>t</sup> of Pens<sup>a</sup> has to think that the Delawares will attach themselves to the British Interest & in short I do not think myself capable of advising you with respect to the Point about which you desire my Sentiments, but as it is not improbable that some of the Southern Indians or of these Delawares or perhaps some of the Enemy Indians may come to Fort Cumberland while I have the Command there & desire to be admitted into the Fort I should be obliged to you for letting me know what Signal our Friend Indians are to make.