

Letter Bk. IV gable Part of one of the Branches of Nanticoke will fall in Sussex County, & should that be the Case it cannot be doubted but the People who live contiguous will carry on a Trade without paying the Maryland Duties, just as the Owners of Virginia Vessels that take in their Cargoes from the Southern Shore of Potowmack do at present. This indeed they say they will do in Spight of any Agreement or promise that the Mess<sup>rs</sup> Penns may make to restrain them, & once such a Trade is opened it must be expected that a considerable Part of the Eastern Shore Tobacco will be carried to & exported from the Head of Nanticoke in Pensilv<sup>a</sup> Bottoms, the Masters of which will be entered and cleared by the Port Officer that resides at Lewis Town on Delaware Bay. I take the Liberty to inclose the two last Gazetts that have been printed here wherein are some Accounts of the late Motions & present Situation of the Troops that are employed under the Command of Brigadier General Forbes on an Expedition against Fort Du Quesne, which place it is hoped & indeed generally expected they will have made themselves Masters of before the End of this Month. You will see that the General arrived at Fort Loudoun about the time that the Governor sett off for Fort Cumberland, but I much question whether he has been yet able to reach Raes Town or indeed

p. 3 whether he will ever get thither for I was told by a Person that came to Fort Frederick last Saturday & who had seen the General two Days before that His Excellency was so much fatigued the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst by travelling ten Miles in a Kind of Horse Litter on a fine Road that he could scarcely stand when he alighted & that he never attempts to walk without Leaning on some other Person; It is said however that if the General did not recover Strength in a Day or two Colo Bouquet who continued at Raes Town was to take Command of & proceed with the Army which perhaps it would have been well if he had done a Month ago. The Officers that are said in the Gazette to have lately lain in Sight of the French Fort were Lieut. Riley of the Maryland Troops who went out with a Corporal only, & Capt Shelby who commands the Company of Voluntiers that the Governor encouraged to go out from this Province, both of them Persons whose Reports may be relied on, The Lieut' took his View from an Eminence that lies a little to the Northward of Fort Du Quesne, but Capt Shelby crossed the Ohio below Fort Du Quesne with more than half his Company, The Governor of Pens<sup>a</sup> & Governor Barnard were according to the last Accounts which have been received from the Northward to have a meeting at Easton about this time with many of the Chiefs of the Shawanese Delawares & some Western Tribes of Indians