

the Spring till they march'd to Fort Loudoun, & I am sorry if the Provisions occasion'd any Sickness among Your People.

I do not consider the Concern You may have in victualling Your Men, but only the Agreem^t between us; I think it wrong to ask payment for Provisions the People will not touch, but this Objection shou'd have been made on Delivery; & the Quantity that was to be left at the Fort was not objected to at Philadelphia, but the same Quantity was to be replac'd at Fort Loudoun: If Your Contractor had been at Fort Cumberland when our Forces march'd from thence C^t Dagworthy wou'd have had no occasion to give his Receipt, but on his Receipt is the Foundation of the Demand: As to a second Review of the Provisions, it's needless, if bad then, they must be worse now after so much hot Weather, but if truly inform'd, the Beef has been entirely destroy'd.—What I aim at in troubling You so much on this Affair is to pacify the Clamours of our People; & what I now desire is, that You will please give Directions to replace the other Species not complain'd of. I cannot send You Copy of our Act of Assembly, the Press being entirely employ'd in printing new Paper Currency but inclos'd You have Copy of an Extract, which I thought necessary to disperse thro' the Country for raising our Men when the other is printed I shall send it You—they voted 3000 to supply the Indians with Provisions, Cloathing and Presents; but we have had so many lately that, that will soon be deficient in supplying them.

I am glad Your Officers are so successful in raising Men, I cannot yet inform you of our success, but I understand there will be a great many this Week at Fredericksburg.

I have been surpriz'd with Acc^t of a great Body of French & Indians marching from Fort Du Quesne with a Train of Artillery, which made me order the Militia of eight contiguous Counties to Fort Loudoun but lately I am inform'd a Body of them are on their March, but no Artillery with them; it's absolutely necessary to observe their Motions, as they are reported very numerous.

I have a Letter from L^t Gov^r De Lancey; dated N York the 3^d acquainting me that S^r Cha^s Hardy embark'd the Day before with all the Transports under his Comānd, but does not mention L^d Loudoun, I hear he went by Land to Boston, to forward the Embarkation of their Troops.

I am sorry to observe another Change in our Ministry, a certain Sign of the Weakness of our Constitution; from Scotland it's said Duke of Bedford & Earl of Sandwich are Secretaries of State, Earl of Winchelsea at Head of the Admiralty & M^r Fox Pay Master General.