

not contradicted before that time I should march towards Fort Frederick on the 23<sup>d</sup> Inst with about 400 Men which I doubted not but I should be able eer that to assemble. At the same time that I writ this Letter to Colo Stanwix I sent others to the several Captains of Militia in Frederick County advising them of my being at Frederick Town in my way to the Frontiers & requiring them to join me without Delay, I had the Satisfaction to hear next Day that they were all in Motion in Obedience to the Orders I had issued & found that I should be able to march with at least the Number that I had given Colo Stanwix Room to expect, but in the Evening of the 22<sup>d</sup> I had the pleasure to receive a second Letter from Capt Dagworthy dated the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst wherein he told me that another party of Cherokees had returned to Fort Cumberland the Night before with two Scalps which they had taken within a hundred Yds of Fort Du Quesne & had assured him that the Party of the Enemy which had been represented to him by the other Cherokees as so formidable a Body was no more than a Scalping Party & that they took neither Artillery nor Carriages with them. They declared that they had lain in Sight of Fort Du Quesne when the Enemy marched thence & were very positive that their Number did not at most exceed two or three hundred. Being told what the Cherokees who first came in & who gave the Alarm had insisted on, they said that they were Young Men & had been frightened, that some Cannon had been indeed fired at the French Fort while they were in Sight of it & when the Enemy's Party marched thence & they supposed that on the Report of these Guns & seeing the Tracks of the Enemy's Party or perhaps the Party itself they had been alarmed & that their Fear made them magnify the objects that had struck them. I presume this was pretty much the Case, tho perhaps as there was no Body at Fort Cumberland that was well acquainted with the Language of the Cherokees the Mistake was owing to Nothing but the want of an Interpreter. However as Capt Dagworthy writ in such a manner as convinced me that he did not beleive that the French were marching any considerable Body towards him & as I was unwilling to put the Province to any Expencc that could be prudently avoided I did immediately on my Receipt of his second Letter countermand the Orders that I had before sent to the Militia Officers & the Men were accordingly dismissed the next Morning. As Copies of the Letters that were brought to me were sent to Col<sup>o</sup> Stanwix & Col<sup>o</sup> Washington & by the latter forwarded to Governor Dinwiddie Colo Stanwix was preparing to march with the five Companies of the Royal Americans & some of the Pensilva<sup>a</sup> Forces & Seven Regiments of the Virg<sup>a</sup> Militia were ordered to advance to

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