

Letter Bk. I. I writ this Letter to Col^o Stanwix I sent others to the several Capt^s 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 Col^o Stanwix room to expect, but in the Evening of the 22^d I had the pleasure to receive a second Letter from Capt Dagworthy dated the 17th 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 100 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

p. 293 perhaps as there was no Body at Fort Cumberland that was well acquainted with the Language of the Cherokees, the Mistake might be 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 this Way, & as I was unwilling to put the province to any Expence 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 also sent to Col^o Stanwix & Col^o Washington & by the latter forwarded to Gov^r Dinwiddie, Col^o Stanwix was preparing to march with the five Companies of the Royal Americans & some of the Pensilvania Forces, & Seven Regiments of the Virg^a Militia were ordered to advance towards the Frontiers with the utmost Expedition, It happened that Dagworthy's second Letter reached Col^o Stanwix before he decamped, but the Virg^a Militia being ordered from