

the Contractor to have a Quantity of fresh Provisions carried up immediately & ordered four Officers with a hundred men to march with the Waggons from Fort Frederick. In a Letter which I lately received from him he says he is well satisfied of the Truth of the Officers Report & seems to be much displeas'd at the Garrison's being kept in extreme Want so long. He tells me that some of the Pensilvania Troops were treated after the same manner till he ordered their Provisions to be all buried & fresh laid in, & concludes by saying He finds that every Body is to be wholsomely fed except those who are employ'd to protect others in Luxury. I assure you this Affair has given me a good deal of Uneasiness & if I could have conceived that so little Care had been taken to cure & preserve the meat that was laid in at Fort Cumberland as I am persuaded there was, I never would on any Account whatever have instructed Dagworthy to acknowledge the Receipt of any Stores that should have been left by your Commissary at that place. I yesterday received a Letter thence which was dated the 10th Inst & informs me that one John Street who was a Drummer in the Pens^a Forces till the Reduction of Fort Granville having effected his Escape from Fort Du Quesne is come thither together with a French negro that lately came from the Mississippi Capt Dagworthy tells me that the Drummer being examined on Oath declared that after he fell into the Enemy's hands together with the Rest of the Men that garrisoned Fort Granville he was carried by the Indians to a small Town which lies two miles below Fort du Quesne, that he was removed thence to Logs Town last Spring & detained there till May when being sold to a French Indian Trader he was brought to Fort Du Quesne again by his said master & detained there till about a month ago when he came off with the Negro abovementioned. that when his Master first took him to Fort Du Quesne the Garrison did not consist of more than between 300 & 400 French & a few Indians but that before he made his Escape the Garrison was reinforced by 200 French who came up the River, & brought with them in 12 large Boats a considerable Quantity of Provisions. that upon the Arrival of these Troops there was great Rejoicing & a general Discharge of Artillery & small Arms. that a few Days afterwards a party of about 200 French & Indians went out in pursuit of some English who had killed & taken three French Officers & as many Soldiers but that two Squaws being scalped almost in Sight of the Garrison soon after, the Party was thereupon recalled. that Several Parties have been since ordered towards the Frontiers of these Colonies & one in particular to cut off the Communication between Fort Cumberland & the inhabited part of the Country & to prevent the