

6000) were embarked last Thursday but no Advice has been yet received of the Arrival of the Fleet that is expected from Europe. The Troops that are left under the Command of General Webb for the Defence of the Northern Colonies are, Otway's Regiment, a Battalion of the Royal Americans, His Majesty's four Independant Companies & as many Provincials as will make up the Number 8000. Col^o Stanwix with five Companies of the Royal Americans is marched towards Carlisle on the Frontiers of Pens^a & Lieut^t Col^o Bouquet is sailed with the five other Companies of the first Battalion for South Carolina. Two hundred of the Pensilv^a Troops were also by Lord Loudoun's order to have embarked for that Province but the Assembly have refused to pay them there, & we are told that the 400 that were ordered thither from Virginia have refused to go on board till they have received the Arrears of Pay that are due to them & which are pretty considerable. I presume however that this Obstacle will be soon removed as the Assembly of Virginia is now met & have resolved to grant the Sum of £50000 to pay off their Forces & to support them for another Campaign. The Beginning of this Month a Sergeant of the Virginia Regiment & a Catawba Indian who were taken Prisoners & carried to Fort du Quesne in Novem^r last returned to Fort Cumberland & declare that when they left Fort Du Quesne (which they did some Months since) the Garrison there did not amount to more than 150 Men tho it was given out that a large Body of Regular Troops & a great Number of Indians from different Nations were to join them early in the Spring & that then some Expedition would be undertaken agst Fort Cumberland or one of these Colonies. Tho I hope that the French will not find themselves strong enough to make such an Attempt I have on receiving this Advice & in pursuance of a Letter from Lord Loudoun sent Instructions to the Commanding Officers of the Militia in Frederick & Baltimore Counties ordering them to have their Men in readiness to march on the first Notice & to repair to Fort Frederick with the utmost Expedition in case they should receive certain Intelligence of the Approach of any considerable Body of the Enemy towards either of these Provinces. I have also sent a Copy of the Instructions to Col^o Stanwix who is appointed to command all the Troops that shall be employed in these Parts & have informed him who he might apply to in case he should stand in need of the Assistance of our Militia or of the Troops that are posted at Fort Frederick. At present we have about 90 Men in that place & 150 at Fort Cumberland; the Officers intended for the two new Companies are all employed in Recruiting, to make them more alert I have promised the highest Commissions to those that

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