

Letter Bk. III orders marched to garrison Fort Cumberland while the Rest were left at Fort Frederick to patrol on our Frontiers at a small Distance beyond the Settlements & by this Disposition of them the Inhabitants have been so effectually secured this Summer from the Incursions of the Enemy that we have not lost a single Person exclusive of Soldiers & such as attended them. The Money which had been appropriated for the Support of these Troops being now expended I have convened the Assembly again & recommended it to them to grant farther Supplies for their Support but I am sorry to inform you that they have absolutely refused to provide for any Men that are or may be ordered to Fort Cumberland, & that they are also resolved to reduce the Troops in the Pay of this Province to 300 who shall they say on no Account whatever be employed otherwise than in garrisoning Fort Frederick & patrolling just beyond our Frontier Settlements. I am for my own part well convinced that Nothing can contribute so much to the Safety of our People while we are obliged to carry on a defensive War in these parts as our keeping a strong Garrison at Fort Cumberland or some other advanced Post for tho it may be proper to have a place of Strength & to have Parties patrolling near the Settlements yet that alone will not be effectual the Indians may pass them, come down, destroy the Inhabitants & retire again in a few hours without being observed & before an Alarm can be given; but when another considerable Body of Men is posted at a Distance as at Fort Cumberland & the Commanding Officer frequently sends small Parties to observe the Enemy's Motions & keeps larger ones constantly patrolling the Indians find it no easy matter to make Incursions without being discovered, if they fall in with any Party from such advanced Post on their way down their Progress is for that time stopped for tho they should be victorious as has often happened this Summer yet they dare not venture lower lest the Alarm should be given & the Troops & Inhabitants on the Frontiers be prepared to receive them & in Case they should pass the advanced Post will probably be advised thereof before they can retire & their Retreat will become very difficult. By these & many other Arguments I have endeavoured to convince the Assembly of the Use & propriety of our supporting a Garrison at Fort Cumberland agreeable to the Earl of Loudoun's Requisition, but finding that they will not be diverted from the Resolution that they have taken by any Arguments that I can urge nor by any orders that the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in America can issue I have intreated the Earl of Loudoun to take some other Measures for the Preservation of Fort Cumberland, & lest the Troops that are at present there should be