

Letter Bk. IV

Gazettes which will shew you that the Indians who inhabit the Country about the Detroit & Lake Erie (being as it is said much dissatisfied at His most Christian Majestys pretending to Cede their Country to the King of Great Britain) seem resolved to prevent if possible our receiving any Advantage from such Cession, & in Consequence of their Determination have already reduced some small Posts which had been established on the South Side of Lake Erie & also the Fort at Detroit where the French had for many years kept a Garrison and made a considerable Settlement. Tho the Ohio or Delaware Indians have not yet committed any Murders or Hostilities on this Side the Allegany Mountains & only proceed as if their Intention was to deter our People from going among them or making Settlements to the Westward of those Mountains the Frontier Inhabitants in both this & the neighbouring Colonies have I find been very much terrified inso-much that Numbers of them fled with their Families to the Forts to which they were nearest expecting the Indians would immediately renew their Incursions. Being told by a Person who came hither from Frederick County just after they had received the first Alarm that Gunpowder was very scarce there I immediately sent two Barrells to Col^o Prather who commands the Militia of that County & lives at Conegocheague a few miles on this side Fort Frederick with some Instructions for his Conduct in case the Indians should come into this Province to commit Hostilities on the Inhabitants; & as I apprehend Fort Frederick would be the Retreat or Place of Rendezvous for all the People in that part of the Country should the Indians come down on them I have sent Doctor Heinzman (who having been Surgeon to the Maryland Troops has for some time lived at & taken Care of the Fort) Orders to receive them & their Families into it on Condition that they observe during their Continuance there such Regulations as he shall think necessary for the Preservation of the Fort & of Order among themselves. I have also committed to his Care about fifty Stand of Arms to be delivered on Occasion to such Men as may repair to the Fort tho few of the Inhabitants are without Arms of their own, & I will also by the first Opportunity send him up a Supply of Ammunition, & if the Proceedings of the Indians should make it expedient for me to take any other measures you may depend that I shall not spare any pains myself to preserve the Frontier Inhabitants in Security & quiet. I have heard that the Garrison of Pittsburg has been reinforced since the Indians begun to commit hostilities in that quarter so that unless the Garrison should want Provisions which I presume can scarcely be the Case I suppose it would not be in the power of all the Indians that can be brought