

the King & Country. Surely Destruction being so near it must awaken & Rouse the Spirit of the Burgesses to Action & Quick Resentment; All being now United under the Fundamental Law of Nature, that of Self Preservation—against a Cruel & unjust Desolation, in all Circumstances. The March of Col Dunbar after his Retreat to Fort Cumberland Surprizes all here! It more particularly Effects My Lord, his Province being in View of the Conquering Enemy, now bereft of Britain's Force sent to it's Protection, gone by his retire with the Troops from the Frontiers to Philadelphia some hundred Miles Distance; leaving Virginia & Maryland to the Devastations of Cruel Enemies, who now have a free uninterrupted Access in the two Colonies, which must Occasion as you Observe the Back Inhabitants of each Province retiring to their Friends in the more Popular Parts Subject to Distressful Loss; But of this his Lordship has some Comfort, your having persuaded several to return Back with Assurances that a Sufficient Body of Troops would be at Fort Cumberland, & that you would take proper Measures to prevent the Inroads & Incursions of any French or Indians by having Parties of Force in Forts to be built. He approves of your Plan at Tonallway Creek & hopes the Assembly will enable you to perfect the Three Forts under the Northern Mountains. Your Proposition for Garrison in each to Patroll from one to the other & to Fort Cumberland and in Case of Alarm to receive the Neighbouring Familys into their Protection, will be I hope very Efficacious. The Forts must be well provided with Ammunition & Provisions, else Provincial Troops will Desert, which I understand from you they have already Done from Fort Cumberland. Your Account of the 13<sup>th</sup> of August being Intelligence from an Advance Party of Indians, the Scouts of which Party discovered to a Lieutenant sent from Fort Cumberland with a Party of Men; I wish the Intelligence not true, as the Consequence is to be fear'd must be Tragical from a Powerfull Enemy's Arrival at a hidden Bait of Stores undestroyed, left by Col Dunbar at his Camp on his Retreat after the fatal Action, what could Possess him, to leave so tempting a Bait & Beneficial Allure to bring the Enemy near the Provinces whose Inhabitants must be under the greatest Alarm. On this Occasion his Lordship approves of your Removal of the Hospital to Frederick Town, & Trusts in your's & Col Inne's Abilities & Courage with the Assistance of his Province join'd with Virginia, that a Glorious Stand will be made against the Enemy; the only means for Preservation of his Majesty's Dominion, with the Peoples Lives Religion & Property. Col Inne's Dispatch for Assistance