

L. H. J. Press-Masters, do continue to detain them after the manner they
 Liber No. 49 have hitherto done, I shall be under a necessity of sending the Earl
 Dec. 7 of Loudoun, and the Officer who is appointed under his Lordship
 p. 137 to Command the Forces that have been Raised and Supported for
 the Defence of this and the Two neighbouring Colonies, an Account
 of what has happened: What Steps they may thereupon think
 proper to take, I know not; but as this appears to me to be a Matter
 of the greatest Importance, I intreat you to consider it very seriously,
 and to proceed in such a Manner, as that neither your Constituents,
 nor your own Consciences, may hereafter condemn your Conduct.

7th December, 1757.

Hor.^o Sharpe.

Frederick County December 2.^d 1757

Sir.

As we have had wretched luck in getting waggons for Carrying a Supply of Provisions to Fort Cumberland I shall give your Excellency a short Sketch of what passed every day; that some method may be fallen on for the time to come to avoid the delays and obstacles we have now met with.

On Wednesday the 23d November I received your Instructions in a Packet containing a Letter for Mr. Dixon the Sheriff and another for Mr. John Darnall I got late that Evening to Frederick Town but next Morning I applied to Mr. Dixon for his Assistance and Interest in procuring the Waggon, he told me he was afraid nothing could be done without a Press Master and that the Press Master who was appointed on this side the mountains, was gone to Lancaster, but we imagined the Waggoners might be prevailed on, but in this We were disappointed.

On Fryday Morning the 25th I sent Serjeant Barnes (who happened to be in Town) up to Van Swearingen Senr. the other Press Master who lives near the mouth of Conigocheigh but I heard nothing from him till late on Sunday night when he sent his Son Van along with a party of 28 men under Lieutenant Stoddert which Capt. Joshua Beall had sent from the Fort to Escort the waggons; On Fryday Afternoon Mr. Darnall came to Town and endeavoured to prevail on the People to furnish the Waggon which was wanted
 p. 138 and drew up a petition to the Assembly for the People to sign Representing the hardships the People who furnished Waggon would suffer if they were only paid agreeable to the act of Assembly passed last May, but all Fryday Saturday and Sunday were spent in fruitless Entreaties without the least prospect of procuring One Waggon.

As it was late on Sunday Night before the Party came to Town nothin could be done that Evening and the most of the People who lived in Town employed themselves (as we afterwards understood) in Secreting their Waggon and Horses.