

To his Excellency Horatio Sharpe, Esq; Governor and Commander
in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland:
The humble Address of the House of Delegates.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 49
Dec. 15

May it please your Excellency,

In Answer to your Message, communicating to us a Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Loudoun, we can only say, could we have had the Pleasure of seeing his Lordship here, we are persuaded we should have been able to have shewn our Conduct, relative to making Provision for his Majesty's Service and our own Security, in such a Light as might have been satisfactory to him, and to every one else who has the Safety and Prosperity of the good People of Maryland, and indeed the Prosperity and Safety of his Majesty's Subjects in North-America, so warmly at Heart as we are fully convinced his Lordship has; and we esteem ourselves particularly unfortunate that the Business his Lordship is engaged in, has deprived us of that Pleasure: But as that is the Case, and as his Lordship is desirous to know our Proceedings, we must request your Excellency will be pleased to send his Lordship a Copy of the Bill we this Session offered to the Upper House, as soon as the same shall be delivered you by our Clerk, by which, and the Situation of Fort Cumberland, as it appears to us at present with regard to the Protection of our Frontier Inhabitants (which we beg Leave to trouble your Excellency with, presuming you will transmit it to his Lordship); we flatter ourselves his Lordship will be convinced our earnest Endeavours for his Majesty's Service, and our own Security, have not been wanting. p. 188

Fort Cumberland, we are informed, was first begun by some Gentlemen of the Ohio Company, as a Store-House of their Goods, designed for the Ohio Indian Trade, and never was Garrisoned by Troops stationed there by the Direction of any Law of this Province, but commonly by Virginia Forces. That Fort, we have too much Reason to believe, from an Extract of a Letter from your Excellency to the Secretary of State, laid before the Lower House in September Session, Seventeen Hundred and Fifty-six, in which are the following Words, "There are no Works in this Province that deserve the Name of Fortifications; just behind and among our Westernmost Settlements, are some small Stoccado or Pallisadoed Forts, built by the Inhabitants for the Protection of their Wives and Children; and besides these, there is one larger, tho' in my Opinion not much more capable of Defence, on Patowmack, about 56 Miles beyond our Settlements; it has been distinguished by the Appellation of Fort Cumberland, and is at present Garrisoned by Three Hundred Men from Virginia; it is made with Stoccados only, and commanded almost on every Side by circumjacent Hills; a considerable Quantity of Military Stores that was left by General Braddock, still remains there, and Ten of the Carriage Guns that his Majesty was pleased p. 189