

L. H. J. to order to Virginia Two Years ago, are mounted therein;" is not
 Liber No. 49 tenable against even a trifling Force, should they come with any
 Dec. 15 Cannon; and therefore humbly submit it, whether it might not be a
 prudent Measure to remove his Majesty's Artillery and Stores (tho'
 indeed the Provisions, we are told, are chiefly spoiled) from thence
 to a Place of greater Security.

Tho' Fort Cumberland may be constructed, for any Thing we know, near a Place proper for the stationing a Garrison at for his Majesty's Service in general, yet being, as we have been informed, between Eighty and Ninety Miles from the Settlements of the Westernmost Inhabitants of this Province, and in the Truth of that Information are confirmed by your Excellency's Message of the 11th of this Instant, wherein you say, "the Distance from Fort Frederick to Fort Cumberland by the Waggon Road is 75 Miles," and consequently the Carriage of Provisions thither very expensive; we humbly conceive it cannot be reasonably desired, that the People of this Province should be burthened with the great Expence of Garrisoning that Fort, which if it contributes immediately to the Security of any of his Majesty's Frontier Subjects, it must be those of Virginia or Pennsylvania, who do not at present contribute any Thing towards the Support of it that we know of.

We understand the most common Track of the Indians, in making their Incursions into Virginia (which have been lately very frequent) is through the wild desert Country lying between Fort Cumberland and Fort Frederick, and yet we cannot learn that the Forces at Fort Cumberland (tho' most of these are in our Pay, the Summer past have been stationed there contrary, we humbly conceive, to the Law that raised them) have very rarely, if ever, molested those Savages in those their Incursions; from whence we would willingly presume their Passage is below the Ranges, which Troops stationed at Fort Cumberland can with Safety to that Fort extend themselves to; and
 p. 190 consequently, that any Security arising from those Troops, even to the Virginians who are most in the Way of being protected by them, must be very remote, and to us much more so.

When, from the Incursions and horrid Depredations of the Savage Enemy in the neighbouring Colonies, an Opinion prevailed, that a Fort was necessary for the Defence and Security of the Western Frontier of this Province, it was thought most likely to be conducive to those Ends, to have it placed some where near the Place Fort Frederick is now constructed; because from thence the Troops that might be judged proper to be kept on Foot for the Security of the Frontier Inhabitants, might have it in their Power to Range constantly in such Manner as to protect them against small Parties; and in Case any considerable Body of the Enemy should appear, or the Fort should be attacked, the Troops might, at a very short Warning, be assisted by the Inhabitants.