

L. H. J.
Liber No. 50
May 5

proportionable Number of Officers, were at Fort Frederick, and the Rest, or most of them, were, by the especial Order of his Majesty's General, in Garrison at Fort Cumberland, or otherwise employed in that distant Part of the Province, in such Manner as Captain Dagworthy thought best for the Security of the Inhabitants, and to annoy the Enemy.

You have not, I presume, forgot, that on the 7th of last December, I informed you, that many Difficulties had been purposely thrown in the Way of Mr. Ross, the Agent Victualler, by a Member of your House, to prevent the Garrison of Fort Cumberland being supplied with Provisions; it happened, that that Member's Endeavours did not succeed so far as to force the Troops to abandon that Place for Want of Food, but they laid the Commanding Officer at Fort Frederick under the Necessity of sending several Parties to Fort Cumberland, the latter End of December, and in the Month of January, to convoy up Provisions for the Use of that Garrison during the Winter.

Such, Gentlemen, was the State and Number of our Forces the 9th of December last, and such the Service, that, almost naked as they were, those of them that Capt. Beall had the immediate Command of, were obliged to perform in the Middle of Winter; let us next examine what Encouragement they had to perform it, and how far they could be considered at that Time in the Pay of the Province.

On the 15th of October last, Mr. Murdock and Mr. Dick, two of the Agents that were appointed to cloath, pay, and victual them, informed me by a Letter, that they had examined their Books, and found that the Money which had been appropriated for the Support of the Troops, which were then employed in the Service of this Province, was entirely expended; and I since find, that it had been expended a Week before the Gentlemen gave me that Notice, or at least, that no Pay has been issued to any of the abovementioned Troops, for their Service, since the 8th Day of October. You did indeed frame a Bill, after that Time, for keeping up 300 of the Men for the immediate Defence of the Frontier Inhabitants, but it was such a One as the Earl of Loudoun thought the Gentlemen of the Upper House did very wisely in rejecting, though there had been nothing else exceptionable in it, than what related to the Disposition or Distribution of the Men, for whose Support it was intended to provide. The Bill was, I think, returned to your House with a Negative, the First of December, and although the Assembly sat till the Sixteenth of that Month, nothing farther was done for the Support of our Troops, or that could afford them any Prospect of being paid; neither did you any Thing which could justify me, in giving the Party of Cherokees, that had just before offered us their Services, the least Encouragement to continue on our Frontiers; on the contrary, when I intreated you to appropriate to their Use, Part of the