

troops to garrison Fort Cumberland, very naturally aroused the anger of Governor Sharpe and of the Earl of Loudoun, who rightly felt that colonial troops should be used for the general defence wherever they were most needed. The bitter struggle between these two points of view runs through the records of the four sessions of the Assembly reproduced in this volume.

In a lengthy address to Governor Sharpe under date of December 15, 1757, the Lower House gave its version of the original establishment of Fort Cumberland on the Potomac at Wills Creek, declaring that it had been informed that it was originally built, not as a fort but by "some Gentlemen of the Ohio Company, as a Store-House for their Goods, designed for the Ohio Indian Trade, and never was Garrisoned by Troops stationed there by Direction of any Law of this Province, but commonly by Virginia Forces". This address then went on to say that the Governor himself in 1756 had described Fort Cumberland as a mere stockaded enclosure, difficult to defend as it was commanded on all sides by nearby hills, and that the Fort then contained military stores left there in 1756 by Gen. Braddock, and 10 carriage guns, with a garrison of some three hundred Virginians (pp. 357-358). In a sharp reply the Governor bluntly informed the Lower House that its opinion that Fort Cumberland should be abandoned would in no wise influence Loudoun. He concluded by saying that as regards the assertion of the Lower House that "Fort Cumberland was first begun by some Gentlemen of the Ohio Company as a Store-House . . . whoever gave you that Information told you a Falsehood, not that it is Material who began it" (pp. 386-387). Unfortunately Sharpe did not state what was in his opinion the origin of Fort Cumberland.

COUNTY MILITIA

In his dealings with the Lower House in trying to force that body to pass a Supply bill which would be satisfactory to the Upper House, the best weapon which the Governor had, and this proved to be an ineffective one, was the threat to send the militia of the several counties to the defence of the western frontier, if the Assembly would not provide a general Provincial force to do so. During the winter 1757-1758, he had ordered out the militia of Queen Anne's and Kent counties and sent them to the frontier. This had produced a storm of opposition in the Lower House, and a violent protest to the effect that he had exceeded his authority in so doing. Under date of February 22, 1758, the Lower House by a vote of 32 to 5 adopted an address enquiring why he had ordered these companies of militia to march to the frontier, and requesting him to lay before the house all the orders which he had given from time to time to this end (pp. 439-440). He immediately replied that having reason to believe that the soldiers then on duty at the frontier would disband when it was found that the Assembly "had broke up" without making any provision for their further support, he had ordered the county militia to march to the frontier to prevent the settlers deserting their plantations. He added that he could not lay before the house all the orders which he had issued as many were then in the hands of the officers of the county militia to whom they were