

They, on the 19th, were pleased to send me this polite Answer :

“May it please your Excellency, We cannot help expressing our Surprise, that you should recommend it to the Agents, to order a Supply of Provisions to a Garrison at Fort Cumberland. Had they in their Hands ever so much of the Money appropriated by the Act of Assembly passed last Session, they undoubtedly would not have laid out any of it in Supplies to a Garrison, stationed contrary to the plain Destination of all the Forces raised and to be supported by that Law. And if any evil Consequences have heretofore or may hereafter follow a Want of such Supplies, let those Answer for them who have, contrary to Law, been the Means of stationing Troops where they had no Authority to place them, and for Want of whose Service, on the Duty assigned them by Law, the Frontier Inhabitants of this Province have been exposed to the Incursions of their cruel and savage Enemies.”

L. H. J.
Liber No. 52
April 23
p. 71

By Way of Reply to this Address, and to enforce my Message of the 15th, I, on the 21st, sent the House the following :

“Gentlemen, I know not how great your Surprize may be at my recommending it to the Agents to send a fresh Supply of Provisions to the Troops at Fort Cumberland; but I assure you mine would have been very great if they had urged any Thing but the Want of Money in Excuse for not having immediately complied with my Request. The Agents Accounts will, I suppose, shew you, that they have hitherto furnished those Troops with Provisions; and they will, I presume, if called upon, inform you that they have been well advised the Law made it their Duty to supply them so long as any of the Money, which was appropriated by the Act passed last Session, remained unexpended. I am sorry you should question the Earl of Loudoun’s Authority to place in Fort Cumberland any of the Men that were raised here, in Consequence of his Requisition: I am satisfied that this Lordship was by his Majesty’s Commission, as well as by our Act of Assembly, impowered to do so; and however it may become you, I do not think it was my Duty to declare, that they should not be employed in such a Manner as the Commander in Chief of all his Majesty’s Forces in America though most conducive to his Majesty’s Service. As it is notorious that while Numbers of People have been cut off in the Two Neighbouring Provinces, we have only lost Two or Three Persons at most, exclusive of Soldiers and their Attendants, and that our People owe their Preservation in great Measure to the Disposition that the Earl of Loudoun was pleased to make of our Forces, I am surprized at your saying that for Want of their Service, the Frontier Inhabitants have been exposed to the Incursions of their cruel and savage Enemies: But if you complain so grievously of the Earl of Loudoun’s having orderde a Part of our Troops to Garrison a Fort within the Province, What Answer might his Lordship have expected, if, when