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of the French and their Indian Allies, the Strength of their Forts, and Garrison
and what I had heard of their future Designs, and concealed nothing from
him but my Defection from Fort Cumberland, the discovery of which I
apprehended might endanger my Life. The Colonel appeared satisfied with
the Account I gave, ordered me some Cloaths and Victuals, and I was treated
kindly while I remained there, which was part of three Days, one Plummer who
lives near Fort Frederick, happened to be there at Fort Cumberland, and a
Party was ordered to escort him thence to Cresaps Fort, they took me with them
and as they had given me some spirituous Liquor before we set off and made me
drunk more on the Road as well as after we reached Cresaps, I became very drunk
and was wholly deprived of my Senses, whether I did say any thing about my
having heretofore lived in Baltimore County with Darby Tool, or any other Roman
Catholic I know not, but next day Plummer and some others of the party told me
that I had confessed in my Liquor that I had lied to Colonel Stoen, that I was
not taken Prisoner but went off voluntarily to the French being invited thereto by
several Roman Catholics who corresponded with the Enemy, or my insisting that
I had uttered no such Words, or that if I had there was not the least Truth in
them, some of the Company beat me unmercifully, and one of them seized a
Gun Barrel and swore he would instantly put me to Death with it, if I dared to
deny a Syllable of what they said I had spoke over Night, and in short they
threatened me so terribly that I was persuaded there was no other Way for me to
save my Life than by acknowledging what they told me I had declared while
I was drunk, and by assenting to all the Questions that they thought proper
to ask me. I found that they would be pleased with my making some
Information against the Catholics, and as I knew some of that profession, and
had heard the Names of others, while I lived in Baltimore, I framed such a
Story as I thought would be believed, and on my arrival at Fort Frederick
repeated it to Captain Dagworthy, being then afraid to deny what I had declared
on the Road, lest by recanting and contradicting myself, I should lose my
own Credit and be at least punished as an Impostor: this was my only Reason
for saying to Colonel Cresaps and to your Excellency as often as I have
been examined, but as I find I can no longer secure your Excellency's Opinion
that I never was at Mr. Neale's, or any other Hays House in my Life, that I
was never in Company with Mr. Neale or Wheeler, and that every Word that
I have heretofore told you concerning them, Mr. Donald, Diggs, Clayton &