

The same manner as was in the last defrion proposed; as they have again  
appropriated the Ordinary Licence, & those of Pedlars to replace the Money  
that must be taken out of the Loan Office. The Bill must accordingly  
to your Ldps Instructions meet with the same Fate as did that which was  
presented the last defrion. This Morning I received Letters from the Troops  
who were the 22<sup>nd</sup> Inst. when my Letters were Dated about 40 Miles westward  
from Fort Cumberland; the Difficulty of getting, Waggon & heavy Baggage  
over the Mountains has retarded them a good Deal as your Lordship will  
conceive when you are informed that the General has been 12 Days marching  
thru 40 Miles, a small Body of French had been discovered by their  
advanced Guard; but it is not confirmed to me that they have had any Mis-  
success. I hope & expect that the French will at least be invested by the Middle  
of next Week. This Morning I received Letters from Col. Innes Com-  
mandant of Fort Cumberland, & Col. Grosvenor advising me that on last  
Monday Morning a Party of French Indians fell upon some of the distant  
Inhabitants of Frederick City of whom they killed three with the Loss of  
only one of their own Party, & carried Eight away Prisoners. My other  
Letters from York I am informed that another Party of these Barbarians  
have also murdered Eleven of the Back Inhabitants of that Province &  
carried as there is reason to suspect many more into Captivity. I immediately  
communicated this Intelligence to the Assembly & requested them to enable  
me to provide against & prevent such Accidents for the future. in Answer  
to my Message they presented the following Address. Resolved that  
this House will make suitable provision for the paying & maintaining  
80 Men including Officers for 6 Months (if Occasion) for ranging on the  
Frontiers of this Province to protect the same against the Incursions  
& Depredations that may be attempted or made by the French or their  
Indian Allies. Resolved further that this House will defray the  
reasonable Expence of conveying Intelligence from Little Creek to Annapolis  
& back thither for four Months. I could have wished they had proceeded  
to prepare a Bill immediately in pursuance of their Resolves but they  
have postponed it to Monday Morning. I shall embrace another Opportunity  
of writing next Wednesday when I hope to send your Ldps better News &  
to repeat to your Ldps how much I am &c.