

or surprizing. The Beginning of this Month I received in a Lett^r
from General Shirley a Commission & Instructions to take the
Command of all the Forces that shall be raised in these Southern
Colonies, & with them make another Attempt on Fort Duquesne, at
least cause a Diversion to prevent the Enemy's Reinforcing their
Garrisons to the Northward from their Forts & Settlements on the Ohio.
Had His Excellency sent me Money to raise & support the Men that
he bids me take the Command of, & instead of ordering what Field
Pieces there were in Virg^a round to New York have sent hither a
Train of Artillery & a sufficient Number of small Arms & Ammu-
-nition (of which these Colonies are in great want; I should have enter-
-tained some hopes of being able effectually to secure these Colonies
at least; but without Men or Money, Provisions, Arms, Ammunition
or Credit, I cannot think the Reduction of Fort Duquesne this Sum-
-mer will be easily effected. Inclosed is a Copy of my Speech to the
Assembly at the Opening of this Session with the Answers of both Houses
& my Answers, in one of which you see I told the Burgesses I con-
-cluded they would act like rational Creatures & honest Men or to
that effect, but I begin to fear that their Actions will shew that
I did not know my Men, or that I said rather more than I believed.
I cannot learn that any Lett^rs have been received from Europe since
those dated in Nov^r. The second Packett is not arrived so that
we are entirely ignorant what Measures are taking at home, or whe-
-ther a Rupture between the two Nations is absolutely unavoi-
-dable. General Shirley it is said will shortly proceed to Oswego
with the four Regiments, & we are told that the Eastern Colonies
will furnish 8000 or 9000 Men for another Expedition towards