

foretell without the Spirit of Prophecy, that all that part of
Frederick County that lies beyond Fredericks Town will be abandon
before this time twelve Month at farthest. The Inhabitants of all
that part of Virg^a which lies westward of the Shamock River have
I am told left their plantations, & notwithstanding a great part of the
£60000 granted by the Pennsylvanians has been expended in building
forts & keeping Troops on the frontiers of that Province the Settlers
have for many Weeks deserted their Houses & retired to the more
populous parts of that Colony. Several of the smaller Forts that were
built in Virg^a & Pens^a have been attacked by large parties of Indians,
& some reduced; Capt. Mercier of the Virg^a Regiment with a Detach-
ment of 60 Men from Fort Cumberland was fallen upon & defeated
about a fortnight ago many Miles on this Side Fort Cumberland,
the Captain, his Lieutenant & 15 Men were killed & left to the Enemy
the Rest of the Detachment retired to a little Stoccardo Fort near
Cacapehon which runs into Potowmack. Two of Capt Dagworth's
Company that were with the abovementioned Detachment were found
tied to Trees & their Bodies most horribly mangled, it is supposed that
they were tied while living & put to the most cruel Death. Ensign
Bacon of Capt Dagworth's Company was scalped as he was returning
from Colo Cresaps to the Fort: & one of Colo Cresaps Sons who put
himself at the head of a party of Volunteers & went in pursuit of the
Indians is also killed. At present the Garrison at Fort Cumberland
consists of no more than 150 Men; 30 of the Carolina Company & the
Rest of the Virg^a Regiment which consists of about 400. I cannot
learn that the Pens^a Assembly have as yet come to any Resolution
neither can I hear certainly whether the Virginians have determined
to raise any more Troops. Governor Dinwiddie has informed me that
the Commissioners which he had sent to the Cherokee Nation advise
him