

by Lord Loudoun's Order - to have embarked for that Province but
the Assembly have refused to pay them there; & we are told that the
Men that were ordered thither from Virginia have refused to go on
Board, till they have received the Arrears of Pay that are due to them
(which are pretty considerable). I presume however that this Obstacle
will be soon removed as the Assembly of Virginia is now met & have
resolved to grant the Sum of £50,000 to pay off their Forces & to
support them for another Campaign. The Beginning of this Month
a Sergeant of the Virginia Regiment & a Catawba Indian who
were taken Prisoners & carried to Fort du Queone in Novem. last retu-
ned to Fort Cumberland & declare that when they left Fort Du Queone
(which they did some Months since) the Garrison there did not amount
to more than 150 Men tho it was given out that a large Body of
Regular Troops & a great Number of Indians from different Nati-
ons were to join them early in the Spring & that then some Expedition
would be undertaken ag^t Fort Cumberland or one of these Colonies.
Tho I hope that the French will not find themselves strong enough
to make such an Attempt. I have on receiving this Advice & in pursu-
ance of a Letter from Lord Loudoun sent Instructions to the
Commanding Officers of the Militia in Frederick & Baltimore
Counties ordering them to have their Men in readiness to march on
the first Notice & to repair to Fort Frederick with the utmost
Expedition in case they should receive certain Intelligence of the
Approach of any considerable Body of the Enemy towards either
of these Provinces. I have also sent a Copy of the Instructions
to