

many of whom they carried into the woods & stripped quite naked as I am
informed by a Young Gent^l: a Lieut^t who was so unfortunate as to be
treated after that manner. As soon as our Troops had evacuated the Fort
the Enemy utterly destroyed it & then returned by water to Ticon-
deroga & Crown Point. What was the Reason that M^r Montcalm
declined to attack Fort Edward we know not. Some are inclined to
think that he was afraid of Quebec would be attacked in his Absence,
others that he was apprehensive of being opposed by a vast Army
of Militia, but that he will return again & reduce that place, also so-
soon as the Militia shall leave the Frontiers. We are told in the
Phila Gazette that there is a French Squadron of 16 Line of Battle
Ships carrying 1112 Guns & several Frigates at this time in the Harbour
of Louisburg & that there is a large Number of Troops in Garrison
at that place. It is also rumoured that the Earl of Loudoun has
given over all thoughts of an Expedition this Season & is about to return
to N York, but I hope the Report is without foundation. From
the Professions that some of the Shawanese & Delawares made at
a Treaty that Gover^r: Denny lately held with them it was supposed
by many people that the Frontier Inhabitants would have nothing
more to fear from those Indians, but a great Number of People have
been since cut off in Pensilvania & I am convinced that this Treaty will
be observed by the Indians no better than those which they had before made
with the Pensilvanians have been. I have not heard that any Mischief
has been lately done in Virg^a or this Province but I am still of Op-
-inion that the Enemy will attempt the Reduction of Fort Cumberland