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the what pains they have taken to impose on their constituents, this laid me under  
a necessity of being extremely prolix in my answer tho not more, so than the  
Gentlemen of the Council thought proper, I hope Your L<sup>ty</sup> will be of opinion  
that I have sufficiently justified the Measures which I undertook to defend.  
The Troops that were raised here last Year continue still to garrison Fort  
Cumberland & Fort Frederick altho it is now 7 Months since they received  
any Pay; what will be now done with them I do not know but have reason  
to believe that when Brigadier Forbes & I meet on the Frontiers towards  
the End of this Month he will be prevailed on to take them into His  
Majesty's Pay as Rangers during the Campaign. The Troops destined for  
this Expedition ag<sup>t</sup> Fort Duquesne are Col<sup>l</sup> Montgomerie's Battalion of  
Highlanders which is hourly expected from S<sup>c</sup> Carolina, four Companies  
of the first Battalion of the Royal American Regiment, two Regiments  
of Virginians each to consist of 1000 Men, 3000 Pens<sup>ions</sup> Provincials, & about 5  
or 6 hundred Indians of the Cherokee Creek & Catawba Nations. All of  
them except the Virginians are to rendezvous at Fort Frederick but when  
they will be able to march thence I know not as it is said that the Ship  
which was sent from Europe with Artillery & Stores for this Service is not  
yet arrived. Untill the Troops move I apprehend our Frontier Inhabi-  
tants will be quite secure & afterwards I shall use my best Endeavours to  
protect them effectually with Militia, for which Purpose I intend to remain  
at Fort Frederick Myself during the Summer. We are told that the  
Transports are sailed from Phila<sup>del</sup> N York & Boston with several Regiments  
for Halifax & it is reported that Admiral Boscawen is also arrived there  
in that Case We may soon expect to receive an Account of Louisbourg's being  
besieged, & we shall likewise expect to hear very soon of General Abercrom-  
bie's being on his March towards Crown Point. The enclosed List will show  
Your L<sup>ty</sup> the Destination of the several Regiments that are already  
in America but how compleat they are I cannot say. As I am sensi-  
ble that Your L<sup>ty</sup> will be anxious to receive the most early In-  
telligence of General Forbes's Motions & Success I shall not fail to write  
from Fort Fred<sup>erick</sup> as often as I may have any thing worth Communicating.