

down the River & collected all the Canoes that could be found which  
were but Ten in Number. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July they were all loaded &  
sent them off under Convooy of a few of the Royal Americans & a Party  
of our Men that had been building a Bridge 80 Feet long over a  
Stream called Licking Creek which runs into Potowmack about  
three Miles above this Fort & over which the intended new Road must  
pass. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inst. two Companies of the Men that have been raised  
for the Expedition by the three Lower Counties on Delaware came  
hither as Convooy to 27 Waggon's loaded with Stores which likewise  
came from Carlyle to be sent hence if possible to Fort Cumberland  
by Water. As the Men seemed a good deal fatigued having scarcely  
halted since they came from Newcastle they all encamped here till  
the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst when I proposed to their Commanding Officer & to the  
Officer of the Remainder of the Royal American Detachment to march  
beyond the Bridge which our People had been building & to work  
upon the Road that the General as well as Colo Bouquet & John  
McLair had now by a particular Letter desired me to open. As I am  
sensible that the Inhabitants of Pens.<sup>a</sup> would not wish to see a better Road  
made from the Inhabited Parts of Maryland to the Yogyogany River  
than can be made thro that Province I doubt not but Capt Shelby's  
Proposal (if the Road is not opened for Want of Men or for any other  
Reason) will be represented to the General in an unfavourable Light; &  
the Attempt to open a new Road as impracticable. I determined since  
I had Nothing else to do to reconnoitre the Country Myself & accordingly  
on the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst. I, Capt Shelby & the Officer of the two Companies above  
mentioned took a Party of Militia & a few Soldiers & went within 20