

361

Miles of Fort Cumberland so that I can now venture to say from my own Knowledge that a good Road might be made thither by fewer Men in less time than Capt Shelby had allotted but whether it will be in my Power to have such a Road opened this Summer I cannot tell as none of the 400 Men that were promised are yet arrived except the two Companies & the small Detachment above mentioned, which together do not amount to many more than 200 Men. Had our Assembly when they met last empowered me to augment our Troops as any reasonable People would have done I should have opened this Road before the General had been persuaded by the Philadelphians to make one by the way of Prays Town which would have been very beneficial to the Inhabitants of this County as they would have had a certain & good Market for their Corn Cattle & every thing else which they might have been willing to dispose of, for I am persuaded that all the Troops would have been then ordered to rendezvous at this Place & I doubt not but half as much Money would have been brought into Maryland & left here as might have been granted for the Support of our Troops. I took several Opportunities while the Assembly was sitting to mention as much to many of the Members but neither my Representations nor the Representations of a Number of the Inhabitants of this County who petitioned the House for such a Road had any Effect. All the Virginia Troops except 6 Companies that are with Colo Bouquet marched from Winchester for Fort Cumberland the latter End of last month leaving Fort Loudoun & the other Forts on their Frontiers to be garrisoned with Militia, they are commanded by Colo Washington & Colo Byrd a Gent.^l of the Council. The two Regiments amount I suppose to about 1900 Men & they are really fine Corps. There are