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find there was no more Provision in the Fort than would
suffice the Troops for one Day which I earnestly hope will
not be the Case again but the Enemy should get Intelligence
thereof & by posting themselves in different Parties on the
adjacent Hills prevent the Arrival of Supplies whereby the
Garrison & all the Troops notwithstanding their Advantageous
Situation must be reduced to the Necessity of retiring & des-
troying or relinquishing the Fort their other works & perhaps
their Baggage to the Enemy. That nothing will be wanting
on your part to avert such an Accident I am well persuaded
but conceive the Troops will never be well supplied with
Provision unless a very different Scheme from that hitherto
followed be pursued. The most frugal & most likely means
in my Opinion of having that Affair well managed will be
to appoint a Commissary of Reputation Ability & some
fortune who with the Assistance of a Deputy & a Clerk will
be able to attend & execute that Business in a proper & satisfactory
manner, This Clerk always & himself for the most part to be
resident in the Magazine at Mills Creek to receive & re-
deliver the Provisions & if he be not entrusted himself with
Authority to contract for Provision yet to him should be
sent Copies of all Contracts as soon as they are made that
he might know when to expect the Supplies engaged for &
might be able to inform himself before the Time speci-
fied in Contracts for Delivery whether the Vendors be
in a Condition to comply with the Terms of their Con-
tracts & in Case of a Probability or Prospect of their failure
be it his Care to give immediate Notice to the Commanding
Officer that proper & speedy Measures may be taken to
prevent any ill Consequence, from such an Event. it