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Recruiting & flattered himself with hopes of being able to muster
500 or 600 Men in Virg^a in a Month or 6 Weeks from that time.
Upon my Return to Annapolis I called a new Assembly to meet
the 10 of Decem^r with sanguine hopes of finding them well
disposed to grant sufficient Supplies & in the intervening time
I paid a Visit to the Independant Companies who were
encamped & building themselves a kind of Fort & Barracks at
Wills Creek. On my way I called at Alexandria where the
Virginians were quartered & to my Concern found that a very
trifling Sum of Money had been sent thither of which Colo
Officers were to have a Dividend & disperse themselves into
the Country to compleat their respective Companies. Being well
assured from Experience that little Success could be expected from
their Endeavours unless they were more liberally supplied with
Money I advanced them 40 Pistols & gave one of them Liberty to
draw on me for more Money in proportion to his Success which
I expected Governour Dinwiddie would repay me out of the Virg^a
Fund. how little my first Visit to Wills Creek encreased my hopes
of being able to succeed in any Attempt on the Enemy or to extend
my Commission with any Reputation I before hinted to you, save
a Horse of Provision was laid in but what I had ordered Crump
to provide, indeed so great was the Scarcety of Flour at the
Camp when I arrived there that unless I had given Crump
Orders to supply the Independant Companies from his Store
they must actually have deserted the Fort they had built in
a Day or two for want of ~~Victuals~~ Bread. I suppose you
will not entertain a very high Opinion of the Troop that I
was to command when I tell you that out of one of the Inde-
pendant Companies only Sr John St Clair on reviewing them
has discharged more than 20 as unfit for Service. At my Return
I acquainted Governour Dinwiddie with the State of those
Affairs & desired him to take some Measures to recover if possible