

I think necessary for the Troops y<sup>e</sup> hall perhaps persuade some  
 Men to join y<sup>e</sup> Escort them to Fort Cumberland if I do not proceed  
 thither myself, I shall soon be able to learn whether Colo Dun-  
 bar will venture on Action again before he receives Instructions  
 from England or whether he determines to remain only on the  
 Defensive: if he is inclined to the first I suppose we must  
 meet our Assemblies once more y<sup>e</sup> endeavour to get him reinforced  
 y<sup>e</sup> a Sufficiency of Ammunition y<sup>e</sup> Provisions. I do not think the  
 Season is yet too far advanced to make an Attempt on the  
 Fort before winter if these Colonies will unite y<sup>e</sup> exert themselves  
 y<sup>e</sup> if a few Battering Pieces y<sup>e</sup> Artillery Stores can be timely  
 got from New York. Now it is likely these three Colonies  
 will sensibly feel the want of a proper Militia Law but I  
 still despair of persuading the Assembly to prepare one or of  
 taking any other proper Measure for the Security or real  
 welfare of their Country. Nothing has been left untried by  
 some of those Patriots to interrupt y<sup>e</sup> prevent the Subscription  
 before spoke of but I believe notwithstanding their Opposition  
 £2000 will be contributed by the Gent<sup>rs</sup> for the Support of  
 a Company to range on our Frontiers. if Shirley too should  
 meet with any Disappointments on Ontario to what a Condition  
 will these Colonies thro' the Obstinacy y<sup>e</sup> Parsimony of a few  
 be brought y<sup>e</sup> what a vast Acquisition will the French have  
 made on this Continent while we are infatuated to look on as  
 idle Spectators y<sup>e</sup> as if we were not interested in the Event of the  
 Campaign. That the Enemy know the Value y<sup>e</sup> Importance  
 of the Lakes I am fully persuaded as I am that they will  
 employ all the Force to render Shirley's Scheme abortive