

before he died, he has scarcely any thing left beside. A Six pound
 which he has taken with him to Paris. You have been informed
 how many Officers were lost in the Action, & how many of those
 that survived, it are unable to undertake another Campaign,
 all the Generals Instructions & Papers being lost. Cdo Dunbar
 is unacquainted what Powers he had, & is cautious how he ven-
 -tures to do any thing but what absolute Necessity requires.
 [The Soldiers who escaped are wasted with fatigue, & so much
 dispirited, that I question if Orders to march westward would
 not incline half of them to desert their Colours. The Destruction
 of so many Horses & Waggons for which the Owners had no
 immediate prospect of being satisfied will vastly increase the
 Difficulty of getting either in these Provinces, & as there has
 been no Fund established by the Colonies, Cdo Dunbar
 will not draw Mills as the General did, I do not conceive that
 would be possible to attempt any thing at present with proba-
 -bility of Success. [I do not apprehend that the French whatever
 the Indians may will come yet a while on this side the Moun-
 -tains but in case they should, the Engineers are of Opinion
 with me that twould be impossible to defend Fort Cumber-
 -land against any Number of them or against any Artillery,
 therefore you will conclude that it is not a very proper place
 for a grand Magazine. Those Gent^l tell me there is an
 Eminence about 16 Miles lower down the River just at the
 Forks of Potomack, both which it commands that is the best if
 not the only place in that part of this Country, which would
 be easily rendered strong & defensible. Mess^{rs} M^r Bellas & Gordon
 promised me to review it again as soon as they were able to
 send me a Plan of such works as they would advise us to have