

Camp, that Colo. Dunbar was preparing to march thence w<sup>th</sup> the Remains of the two Regiments & the Independant Company to Mita. This last Intelligence I found had thrown our distant Inhabitants into the greatest Consternation the late Depredations of the Indians & the News of the Generals Misfortune had almost determined them to retire towards the more populous Parts of the Country but now they no longer hesitated & concluding that when Colo. Dunbar should draw off the Troops from our Borders the Enemy would instantly renew & repeat their Devastations, that 'twas better for them to relinquish their Possessions at once than remain where they must become an easy Prey to an enraged & victorious Enemy. This convinced me that my Journey to Fort Cumberland thro' the Country was more expedient than I had before conceived, & I was glad to find that my Presence & the Promises that I made them that I would take effectual Measures for their Protection & Security prevailed on some that I met retreating & on others that had persuaded me to return back & resolve to remain on their respective Plantations. I ordered some small Forts to be constructed at proper Places in the distant Parts of the Province to which the neighbouring Families may resort in case of Danger or Alarms these Forts I have garrisoned with small Parties of Volunteers that I carried up with me who have Orders to be continually patrolling from one to the other to keep the Communication between the Inhabitants open & if Indian Parties venture to make Incursions to give the Alarm & dispose themselves in such a manner as to cut off their Retreat. The Expence hereof shall be enabled to defray by the Subscription that has been made & out of