

Companies Desertions among the Provincials would have
 been much less frequent, for the Men would have been
 afraid of the Execution of martial Law on them as being
 in conjunction with His Majesty's Regular Forces, which
 the case being now different they think there is no
 reason to fear. You speak as if ~~James~~ had
 taken Mortars with him, I did not apprehend that
 any were imported neither did I before hear what you
 relate concerning the Enemy's destroying the Artillery
 that fell into their hands — Your Proposal to build
 a Fort somewhere beyond the Allegany Mountains this
 Fall I approve of & should be glad our People would
 contribute to the putting such a Scheme in Execution, but
 that I am convinced they will never do unless compelled
 by the Legislature of Great Britain or unless some
 Letters that I expect by Montgomery bring me such Instruc-
 -tions as will let me meet the Assembly on a very different
 footing from what I have lately done — If the Generosity
 of the Virginians alone will enable you to construct & garrison
 such a place of Defence I think you cannot take any
 measure more for his Majesty's Service & the Security of
 these Colonies than setting it about it immediately, but at
 the same time I cannot help thinking that it will be expe-
 -dient or rather absolutely necessary to have some strong place
 on this side the Mountains where the Stores & Provisions
 may be lodged in Safety: such a place Fort Cumberland