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Let the Fleet that is at Louisbourg escape in a
Condition to do much mischief. About a 4th month
ago Governor Innes writ to me intimating that he
thought Fort Cumberland would be attacked
by a Body of French & Indians that had been
discovered by one of his Scouting Parties. at the
Meadows; was the Enemy to make such an
Attempt I am apt to think they would find
little difficulty in making a Conquest, for from
300 Provincials that were left to garrison the Fort
when Dunbar marched with the Regular Troops
scarcely 100 remain & I suspect that that Number
will be daily reduced, which we must attribute
to the Opinion they entertain that being no
longer in Conjunction with Regular Troops they
are no longer Subjects to the Penalties of the Mutiny
Bill & the way of their Officers should entertain
different Sentiments yet the Offenders could not
be brought to condign Punishment because none
of the Officers are vested with a Power to hold
general Courts Martial. You may learn from
Mr Calvert to whom I have sent their Proceedings
to what a Length the Dispute has been carried between
Governor Morris & his Assembly, that nothing is to be
expected from that Quarter without the Compulsion
of an Act of Parliament is most evident & am