

favoured with, was I to represent my Case to M^r Calvert & intimate a Desire of being
reimbursed by His Lordship: however You may be assured that when any thing of this
portance does happen I will not make an Apology of this Sort for not sending You the
most early Intelligence — What You say of Your having seen a Copy of a Resolution
of a Council of War called by Col^o Dunbar at Fort Cumberland to consider of the
Expediency of his leaving that Place & marching the two Regiments to Phila^{del} does not
little surprize me because I am confident that I never advised him to take that Step &
that I never subscribed such an Opinion as You mention. Col^o Dunbar had determined
to retire from Fort Cumberland & proceed to Phila^{del} before I saw him, indeed I was
advised thereof several Days before I got to the Camp & had scarcely any Thoughts
of finding him there at my Arrival, I have been told that immediately on his Return
to Fort Cumberland after the Action he sent to Capt Orme to know how the General
intended to have disposed of the Troops if he had lived, & that on Capt Orme's answering
he would have left the Provincials at the Fort & marched the Regulars to Pens^{il} for
Winter-Quarters, the Colonel declared that he would do the same & instantly give Orders
for the Troops to hold themselves in Readiness to march, whether this was true I cannot
say but I well remember & so do those that were with me that as soon as I reached the
Camp & waited on Col^o Dunbar he informed me that he had determined to march
from Fort Cumberland & that he hoped to be in Phila^{del} within a few Weeks. During
my Stay at the Fort he received a Letter from Governor Dinwiddie wherein he
was urged in very strong Terms to march & recover the Cannon & Stores that had fallen
into the Enemy's hands & to attempt again the Reduction of Fort Duquesne. The
next Morning by his Desire I met Col^o Lyage & M^r John St. Clair at his Tent
& when he asked us "Whether we thought it was advisable & for his Majesty's
Service that he should immediately proceed to Fort Duquesne" I as well as the
other Gent^l answered in the Negative & I am apt to believe that after reading
the inclosed Copy of my Letter to Governor Dinwiddie You will not think We
gave an improper Answer. As I presume Col^o Dunbar will be questioned on his
Return to England & asked what Motives induced him to leave Fort Cumberland
I doubt not but he will do all the Gent^l that he desired to attend the Council
which he called there, the Justice to acknowledge that he never asked their Opinion
about marching the Regiments to Phila^{del}. I am convinced that they all disapproved of
that Step & that if he had thought proper to have consulted them thereon, they would
have unanimously advised him against it. Upon Dunbar's expressing (after the Council)
a good deal of Astonishment & some Resentment at a Paragraph of Governor

Dinwiddie