

defeated, the Captain, Lieutenant & 15 private. Men were killed or much wounded
& left to the Enemy, & the Rest of the Detachment retired for Shelter to a little
Stoccardo Fort which happened to have been built near the place of Action; another
Party of Virginians had just before attacked a small Party of Indians with Success
the Indians were led or commanded by a French Ensign habited as an Indian
who was left dead on the Field in a little Bag tied about his Neck were found
Instructions from the Commandant of Fort Duquesne of which I inclose You a Copy
Many of the little Forts that have been raised for the protection of the Frontier
Inhabitants both in Penn.^a & Virg.^a have been attacked & some of them reduced; the Indians
carry some of those that they make Prisoners & sell them to the French, some of the women
& Children they keep in their own Towns with an Intention to incorporate them with
their Tribes, but in general they seem to delight in putting such as are unhappy enough
to fall into their hands to a cruel Death. Two or three of their Captives who have
lately made their Escape inform us that the French (how numerous I cannot learn) are
all employed in building Barracks or Houses near Fort Duquesne for the Reception
& Convenience of many other Tribes of the Western Indians who have lately come into
their Alliance & are to be constantly employed henceforward in harrying & depopulating
these poor defenceless & infatuated Colonies. The Communication between Fort Cumberland
& our back Inhabitants has been for some time cut off & the Country for 60 Miles on
this Side of it is laid waste & abandoned. I should be pretty well contented if our
Assembly would enable me to take such Measures as in my Opinion would most effectually
secure the Inhabitants of this Province from any future Incursions, at least till the
2 Switzers shall be able to act offensively; but they are too opinionated as well as too
parsimonious to put it in my power; I must therefore yield to all their Absurdities &
let dear-bought Experience convince them that there is no immediate Connection between
Tobacco Planting & Military Affairs & that the Knowledge of one does not always imply
Skill or Experience in the other. I have writ to the Secretary of State to acquaint him
with our deplorable Situation & the Inability of the People to take effectual Measures
for their own preservation; I have intimated to him that the Assembly have resolved to
grant £4000 for His Majesty's Service & the Defence of the Province but that fearing
they might involve themselves in greater Expences than the Circumstances of their Con-
-stituents can bear if they had empowered me to raise any considerable Body of Men
they have restrained the Number to 200, tho I could easily raise 700 or 800 from among
the Inhabitants if the Assembly would grant Money for that purpose; I have
inclosed the Letter to Lord Baltimore as I am ordered to do all that I write to

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