

Mountain which is to be our extreme Limit to put our Frontiers also into a better posture  
of Defence & to have a Fort constructed there agreeable to our Act of Assembly. I am &c

To The Earl of Loudon the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 1756.

My Sir  
As I entertain the most sanguine hopes that Your Ldps safe Arrival in America  
will very shortly give us room to congratulate Your Ldp & Ancestors. I take the Liberty to  
wish Your Ldp all felicity & Success in Your Undertakings, & to acquaint You with the present  
Condition of the Province under my Care; But as Govern<sup>r</sup> Dinwiddie informs me that a  
Party of the Council of Virg<sup>a</sup> will wait on Your Ldp immediately on Your Arrival & re-  
present the Situation of Affairs in this part of His Majesty's Dominions, I shall avoid pro-  
lixity & only mention such Matters as my Duty seems more particularly to require. The  
latter End of Feby His Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup> Shirley was pleased to send me a Commission  
& Instructions to take the Command of all the Forces that should be raised in these Southern  
Colonies for an Expedition to the Westward, or against Fort Du Quesne this Summer &  
desired that I would recommend it to the Assembly of this Province to grant their Quota of  
Men to act in conjunction with such as he had asked, & as he hoped the Neighbouring  
Colonies would raise for that purpose. Our Assembly have accordingly granted £15,000  
to raise & support Troops for such Service, but as it is not to be appropriated or used unless  
the other Colonies shall contribute their respective Proportions: & as Govern<sup>r</sup> Dobb's advises me  
that he has according to General Shirley's Desire sent all the Men which he has  
been enabled to raise in Carolina to N York, & the Pensilvanians are averse to granting any  
Supplies, - No Expedition can possibly be carried on here agreeable to the Generals Instructions  
I am therefore in Compliance with the Request of our Assembly about to proceed towards the  
Western Frontiers of this Province to have a Fort constructed there for the better Security  
of the Inhabitants, which is to be garrisoned with 200 Men that are raising for that Service.  
Your Ldp I presume already knows or will be informed by Col<sup>l</sup> Ludwell that on Patow-  
mack within this Province & about 60 Miles beyond our present Settlements there is a  
Fort which according to a late Return of the Commanding Officer is garrisoned with  
about 200 Men from the Regiment that has been raising in Virginia. enclosed I send You  
Ldp a Return of His Majesty's Stores that have remained there ever since Col<sup>l</sup> Dunbars  
marched thence to Phil<sup>a</sup> last Summer. as there was a Necessity of having the Powder shifted  
& the Casks trimmed to prevent its spoiling I lately gave Orders to the Person that was left  
by the Commanding Officer of the Train at Fort Cumberland to take Care of these Stores to  
get it done & to draw for the Amount of the Expence that might attend it on the Payment