

to order them. I have in my Reply endeavoured to convince them of the  
propriety or Absurdity of such an unwarrantable Resolution, but they are not  
to be moved by any thing that I can urge; on the contrary they have resolved  
likewise that the Troops which are at present in the Pay of this Province  
shall be forthwith reduced to 300, & that they shall after such Reduction  
be no otherwise employed than in ranging just beyond our Frontier Settle-  
ments. This being the case I must entreat Your Ldp to send Col. Stanwic  
some Orders about Fort Cumberland as soon as possible; our Troops will not  
I am afraid be kept together after the Assembly's Resolution is made known  
to them, indeed those of them that are at that Fort will unless they  
receive a speedy Supply of Provisions be obliged to abandon it for want  
of Food. It is a Doubt with me whether the Means which the House  
of Burgesses propose for raising a Supply for the Support of the 300 Men  
above mentioned will be agreed to by the Gent<sup>rs</sup> of the Upper House of Assembly.  
Should they not I shall order two or three Companies of Militia to march  
for the immediate Defence of Fort Frederick & the Frontier Settlements &  
order the Officers of the several Companies that are at present in the pay  
of this Province to deliver to Col. Stanwic or the Officer Commanding at  
Carlisle such of our Soldiers as are enlisted generally for His Majesty's  
Service & are fit to serve in the Royal American Regiment. Tho I should  
have no reason to object to any part of the Bill which our People are pro-  
paring for the Support of 300 Men except that Clause of it which is to  
restrain the Men's Service to Fort Frederick & the Frontier Settlements, I am  
inclined by Your Ldp's Letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> June to think that I ought to reject  
it as encroaching on His Majesty's Prerogative. If that is Your Ldp's Opinion  
I shall refuse it without any hesitation; & perhaps such a Step may have a good effect.

To Colonel Stanwic. The 21<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1757.

Sir Since I received Capt. Pagwathys Letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst I have been  
informed that the Cherokees who were then at Fort Cumberland are returned  
home upon receiving Intelligence that the French have begun to build on