

with any Party from such advanced Post on their way down their Pro-  
-gress as for that time stopped for tho they should be victorious as  
has often happened this Summer yet they dare not venture lest  
lest the Alarm should be given & the Troops & Inhabitants on the  
Frontiers be prepared to receive them & in case they should pass the  
advanced Post will probably be advised thereof before they can retire & their  
Retreat will become very difficult. By these & many other Arguments I have  
endeavoured to convince the Assembly of the Use & Propriety of our supporting  
a Garrison at Fort Cumberland agreeable to the Earl of Loudoun's Requisition  
but finding that they will not be diverted from the Resolution that they  
have taken by any Arguments that I can urge nor by any Orders that the  
Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in America can issue I have  
intreated the Earl of Loudoun to take some other Measures for the Preserva-  
-tion of Fort Cumberland, lest the Troops that are at present there should be  
obliged to abandon that Place for Want of Food before I can be favoured with  
His Ldps Answer to my Letter I have upon the Assembly's refusing to supply  
them given Orders for their being furnished upon my own Account with as  
much Provision as they shall stand in need of. We are told by a  
Portuguese a Deserter from Fort Duquesne that when he left that Place about  
two Months ago the Garrison did not exceed four Hundred Men. Since that  
time a Party of French & Indians have made an Incursion & carried off 15  
Persons from Virg. & another Party was designed ag<sup>t</sup> this Province but being  
discovered a few Miles from Fort Cumberland & having lost in a Skirmish  
that ensued a Cadet that had (as appears by his Orders) the Command of  
them they retired without doing the least Mischief. I had not the  
honour to receive Your Letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> of Feby till within these 6 weeks  
when I received one likewise from Admiral Holburne wherein he requested  
me to furnish him with a Number of Seamen for the Fleet that this