

continue to support the 500 Men which were then in the pay of the Province & that the
Disposal of them should be left entirely to himself. This Letter I immediately laid before
them but they still adhered to their Resolution & framed a Bill accordingly & sent it to
the Upper House for their Concurrence. The Gentlemen who compose that House being
of Opinion that some Regard ought to be shown to the Earl of Loudoun's Acquisition
as they were unwilling to invade His Majesty's prerogative or Right to command all
Troops in his Dominions by himself or those he appoints they did not hesitate to return
the Bill with a Negative, as the Lower House would, not be prevailed on to frame a
second or go upon any other Business afterwards, I soon after put an end to the Session
I am now with the Earl of Loudoun's Approbation preparing to defend the Frontiers with
Militia till some other more effectual Measures shall be taken for our Security. I doubt
not but this proposal of our Assembly's to give up at once by a Law Fort Cumberland
& a Tract of Country on this Side of it 60 Miles in Extent which was till lately
well settled will be represented to the Ministry by the Earl of Loudoun in proper Colours
& therefore I have already sent Mr Calvert Triplicates of a minute Account of all
my Transactions (relative to our Troops & their Disposition) & with the Assembly during
the last & the preceding Session that in Case Lord Baltimore should be called upon
he might be well prepared to give Answers to any Questions that may be asked & I
hope to justify my Conduct. I have the Satisfaction to know that the Earl of Loudoun
approves of the several Steps that I have taken & I flatter myself therefore that he will
lay the whole Blame where it is justly due. For my own part I cannot but say that
as the Assembly were determined to reduce our Forts I am glad they have ^{openly} declared so
that they did not contrive it so as to seem willing to grant Supplies but at the same time
propose such a Mode of raising the Money as would necessarily make the Proprietors In-
terest clash with His Majesty's Service. Upon my advising Lord Loudoun of the Measure
the Assembly seemed resolved to pursue he was pleased to give Lord Stanwic Discretionary
for the garrisoning Fort Cumberland with other Troops which will I presume be immediately
done, & as to Fort Frederick I shall take care to have that always garrisoned with the
Militia of this Province over whom I have (Thanks to those who represented the People in
Assembly about 20 Years ago) pretty ample power & Authority tho not so much as is requisite
in such dangerous times as the present & I find myself sufficiently empowered likewise to
impress from the Inhabitants as much provision for those that march as they shall stand