

on end of: I believe the Militia Captains do not at present discover any signs
at receiving an order to march but a little time will I hope make many difficulties
that now appear terrible & who can tell, but a Man will after a while be the better
- and among the few having served, two or three Months in Defense of his Country: should
be the consequence of our Troops being disbanded there will be no Reason hereafter to
lament that about the present time it does indeed open to us no very agreeable Prospect
- since the Assembly took up one of our Officers has brought hither a French Soldier
that came into Fort Cumberland the 10 of last Month & also a French Cadet who was taken
- Prisoner near that place the same Day. They tell us that the Garrison at Fort Duquesne
the 17 of August consisted of about 40 Soldiers 200 Canadians & some Indians but the
- Indians are for the most part settled in some Villages or Towns a little way beyond the
- Fort & are according to these Men Account about 600 fighting Men. They say like
- wise that the French are about to build a larger stronger & more regular Fort on the Ohio
- at a small Distance above Fort Duquesne & that they have already collected a good Deal
- of Stone & other Materials for that purpose. The Detachment with which both the Prisoner
- & Cadet came from Fort Duquesne consisted of two Officers six Cadets 7 Indians in
- addition & 3 Indians, upon the appearance of the Detachment that was ordered out from
- Fort Cumberland they instantly fled & here but the Cadet fell into our Peoples hands
- & yet we know their real Design & Intention we cannot certainly learn but from several
- Circumstances there is room to believe that they only wanted to inform themselves
- of the Strength of Fort Cumberland & that they will make an attempt on it early in
- the Spring for it seems their Scalping Parties have at times been much nearer than
- that place it being our most advanced Post. I have at length been able
- to get a Collection of 1000 for you of some of our Flowing Shrubbery a parcel of
- which I propose to send by the next Packet of the Ship but I shall charge with this
- & shall not fail to send another Parcel by the next Ship that sails for London from this
- Port in case

To Governor - I should be glad to hear from you

If you receive this Letter at Hampton I should be much obliged to you
for sending of Capt. Lawrence to whose care I shall commit it & I
shall be glad to hear from you