

possible for the Service of the ensuing Campaign but at the same time I think
it my Duty to inform You, that the late Proceedings of our Assembly have been
such as afford me too much room to fear that my Endeavours will be ineffectual
I inclose You a Return of the Troops that are or were lately employed in
the Service of this Province, about 350 of them including Officers are I believe
good Men & very proper for Rangers but as it is already more than 5 Months
since they received any Pay I am afraid they will think of disbanding them
before the Campaign opens. I wrote to General Abercromby a few Days
ago on this Head & took the Liberty to inclose him a Copy of a Letter that
the Earl of Loudoun was pleased to send me when our Assembly came to
a Resolution last Winter that they would no longer provide for the Support
of any Men that should from that time be kept as a Garrison in Fort Cumberland
land; by this Letter His Ldy gave me Leave to assure the Officers & Men
that in Case the Assembly should decline it he would engage to see them
paid as long as they should continue in the Service & on this Footing have
our Troops been kept up ever since that time. I should General Abercromby
be inclined to fulfil the Earl of Loudoun's Engagement & flatter Myself
You will find them of considerable Service, but if His Excellency disap-
proves of the Proposition I have made him he will I doubt not have advised
You before this time to order some other Forces to Fort Cumberland lest
upon our Assembly's breaking up without doing any thing (which is far from
being improbable) our Men should go off & the Fort be thereby left without
a Garrison. I will give Orders for clearing & repairing the Road between
Dennis & Williams's Ferry according to Your Desire, & I will immediately write
to Col. Tho: Prather an Officer of our Militia that lives near the Mouth
of Bonegocheague & desire him to contract for a Quantity of Forage to be
delivered at that place upon the first Notice, from his Behaviour on