

To Mr. St. Clair the 29th of March 1758

Dear Sir

Since I wrote to you the 27th Inst I have talked with Lieut. Shelby
an Officer of our Provincials who is well acquainted with the Country that
lies between Juniata River & Potowmack having always lived in those
Parts & am informed that the Road which leads to Fort Cumberland
from Shippensburg by Fort Frederick is near twenty Miles shorter than
the Road which goes by Williams or the Mouth of Conegochiegh. You
will see by the inclosed Draft wherein that River & Potowmack are laid
down agreeable to an actual Survey that this Road strikes off from that w^{ch}
leads to Williams Ferry a few Miles to the Eastward of Conegochiegh &
about a Mile to the Westward of a Plantation called Henry Paulins, but
upon Lieut. Shelby's Representation I have given Orders for opening another
Road between Paulins & Fort Frederick which will I expect be done within
a Fortnight at farthest & be 3 or 4 Miles shorter than that which is used
at present. There is a good Road already opened from Fort Frederick into
that which was made thro Virg: to Cape Gapon by Your Order & the Ford
at Cherrys is much better than that at the Mouth of Conegochiegh. The Wells
that are in & near the Fort afford exceeding good Water & there are Houses
enough to receive any Quantity of Provision & Stores that the General might
have Occasion to Order thither. There are among the Officers at Fort
Frederick 2 or 3 that have lived many Years in that Part of the Country
& are acquainted with most of the Inhabitants if You would write to Capt
Alex: Beall who commands there, & let him know what & what Quantity
of Forage &c. You would have purchased & laid in at the Fort at the Mouth
of Conegochiegh or at any other Place & send him Money to pay for it I am
apt to think that these Officers would be able to purchase on as reasonable
Terms as any Person & on better than any Strangers that You can send thither
on such a Service.

P.S. I have desired Colo Prather to buy 20 Loads of Hay
1000 Bush of oats & 1000 Bush of Indian Corn