

not be opened till Yesterday & to Morrow Morning. I shall set off & endeavour to be
at the Mouth of Conegochiegh on Sunday next where You will be pleased to leave
a Line for me; I cannot conceive what You mean by saying "if the Cherokees
prefer me, very hard to know the Reason they do not meet the Troops in the Field
I certainly must desire them to go & ask the Reason why we do not keep Faith with
them of those, who can inform them better than General Forbes or I can do," unless You
allude to what I said to those Indians that were at Annapolis the 6th of April namely
that the General intended to be on the Frontiers in about a Month from that time
if that is what You allude to give me leave to before You proceed to censure that
Step to communicate to You in a few words the Reasons that induced me to take it.
Our Assembly You was at that time sitting & they & many others were acquainted
with the contents of the General's Letter to me of the 21st of March wherein was
the following Paragraph "I John Blair informs me that You have a Body of
Cherokee Indians at Fort Frederick upon Potowmack which I must beg You will
be so good as Order to be taken care of untill we can assemble our People which
I hope may be done by the 20th of April & as I propose, Conegochiegh for a Rendezvous
for the Pennsylvania Troops & Regulars from Phila. I beg You will order the Maryland
People to Frederick Town in Maryland by that time" there was not a Day but
many of the Assembly their Clerks & others went among the Indians or carried the
Indians to their Lodgings while they stayed at Annapolis some of these took
the Liberty to assure the Cherokees that were here some of whom understood English
that there was to be an Expedition carried on this Summer against Fort Duquesne
& that the Troops which were destined for it would certainly be at Conegochiegh
the 20th of that Month. It gave me a good Deal of concern to find that any
Persons had taken such Liberties & particularly that the Indians had been told
that our Troops were to be at the Place of Rendezvous so very early as the 20th
of April, which notwithstanding any Expressions in the General's Letter I really
thought improbable & therefore I told the Cherokees when I spoke to them in presence
of the Assembly that the General was not to be on the Frontiers till about a Month
from that time & I afterwards told them that perhaps it would be 6 Weeks or more
before the Troops could be assembled, whether the General or You are of Opinion
that I said too much or too little on that occasion I know not but I hope You will
believe me when I assure You that what I told the Indians was said with a good
Intention & that I shall be extremely sorry if the General or any one who should
have cause to think it has had or may have an ill Effect.