

Report was a very just one, & that a very good Road might be opened between  
his Place & Fort Cumberland by 350 Men in less than three weeks proper Parties  
being appointed to cover them & that when it shall be opened it will not much  
exceed fifty miles in Length. As there was a bad place just beyond Licking  
creek which it was necessary to open first that some Provision Waggons might go  
on with Major Wells's Companies to Sidling Hill we left Capt. Jocelyne there  
with the Remainder of his Detachment being 36 Men & a hundred of the best  
of Major Wells's Men to open it, the worst of the Major's Men in Number about  
50 were left here to recover themselves & then to come on with the Provision Waggons  
as soon as the abovementioned Passage should be opened. I did indeed expect that  
more work would have been done by them before this time than there is, however as  
Waggons can pass the Rest of the Major's Men shall go off this Evening & the Major  
will join his two Companies to Morrow Morning early & proceed to Sidling Hill. As  
I shall be obliged to keep a Party of 50 Men constantly going with the Canoes these  
will remain but about 200 to work upon the Road, a Force much too small for  
such a Work especially as many of them will do nothing but cover the Rest. As to  
the Carolina Troops I give over all Thoughts of seeing them, & were they to come  
I am told they will not work till they are assured of being paid. I find the  
Canoes could not go beyond the Old Town I expect them back this Evening or to morrow  
Morning but as the 50 Men that conveyed them up were obliged to stay with the  
Stores till a Command could come down from Fort Cumberland to receive them I  
shall be at a Loss to make up another Party to convey them up the next Trip. I can  
not write to the General, lest Your Express should be gone from Colo Prathers before my  
Letter can be carried thither, but I beg the favour of You to present my best Respects  
to His Excellency & I shall do myself the honour to acknowledge the Receipt of his obliging  
Letter of the 20 of June by the first Opportunity, I shall likewise write to Mr. Shelby  
as soon as Mr. Ross returns who is expected here every hour. It is now more than a  
week since I sent one James Long from this Place to collect all the Waggons that he  
could & to carry them to Carlisle, he has the Character of being a very clever Fellow  
about Waggons & I hope his Diligence on this Occasion will recommend him to Your  
Notice.

P.S. If the General will have the Road mentioned  
in Capt. Shelby's Report made within these three weeks You must reinforce Major  
Wells with 150 Men & there ought to be 100 employed on this Side. Sidling Hill I wish  
I was not obliged to send any of the Maryland Soldiers to convey the Canoes for they have  
been used to work 7 Days in a week not are their Officers afraid of their being injured