

of them as were necessary to garrison. Fort Cumberland might be kept up. His
Lordship promised that if I would find them Pay & Provisions he would repay me
out of the Contingencies of the Army in case the Assembly should not indemnify
me at their next Meeting. Upon receiving this Letter of which I have already
sent Your Excellency a Copy I wrote to Capt. Dagworthy & the best of our Officers
& gave them some Assurance of being paid so long as they should remain with their
respective Companies in the Kings Service notwithstanding the Assembly had broke up
at that time without making any Provision for them. As I was convinced that if
the Number of our Troops was once reduced the Assembly would never be prevailed
on again to augment them I thought it would be best to let them remain as they were
till the Assembly (which was then about to meet again) could be tried once more &
I wrote to the Earl of Loudoun & Colo Stanwix accordingly, at the same time I told
them that if the Assembly should not upon another Trial come into reasonable mea-
sures but persist in the Resolution they had lately taken in that case I should send
Colo Stanwix immediate Advice thereof that he might if it was thought proper
give Orders for three compleat Companies of 100 Men each to be formed out of the
best of our Soldiers who with their proper Officers might remain at Fort Cumberland
as long as His Sd^{ty} should think proper to support them. I never received any
Letter after this time from the Earl of Loudoun which made me conclude that his
Sd^{ty} approved of my Proposal to let all our Troops remain as they were until the
Assembly should again meet; but in a Letter which Colo Stanwix was pleased to send
me the 30 of Jan^y he signified his Approbation in these words "I think you judge
very properly for the Publick in not diminishing any of Your Provincial Forces till
You have tried Your Lower House to the utmost." About the time that I had
wrote to the Officers in consequence of the Letters which I had received from the Earl
of Loudoun a Member of the Assembly went among the Soldiers & told them that since
no money had been raised to pay them they were not obliged to continue any longer in
the Service & that if they did continue he was well assured the Assembly would never
agree to pay them. After this Doctrine had been propagated among them the Officers
found that it would be impossible to retain many of the Men to their Duty without
advancing them their Pay as it became due therefore as I had desired them to keep their
respective Companies together & had given them great Reason to hope that His Majesty's