

Officers & Mr. Prop for relieving them in some measure out of the Difficulties wherein they were involved & to assure You that I am

To General Forbes. Fort Frederick, the 17th of August: 1758.

De^r Since I was favoured with Your Letter & One that came by the same by the same Express from Major Halket I have sent off to Baltimore, Bladensburg & Marlboro in hopes of procuring you if not 300 pair of Blanketts which shall be sent with all possible Dispatch to Bass Town. As I have been under the Necessity of engaging myself for the Payment & have not here with Me any One that I should choose to trust with so considerable a Sum must beg the favour of You to leave a warrant there payable to me or my Order for £500 which will be near the Amount of 600 Blanketts including all Expences, however be it more or less the Ballance may be easily settled by the Person to whom the Warrant is directed. Altho Major Halket writes that they will be paid for on Delivery I rest satisfied it was neither his or Your Intention that I in case of Accidents should be a sufferer. It is with Concern but my Duty obliges me to acquaint You that should the Militia be ordered to Fort Cumberland I do not believe they would march I am apt to think You will be of my Opinion when I assure Your Excellency that for several Days together there has been no more than 9 or 10 Men doing Duty in this Garrison. I am very apprehensive that many more will not come up even as far as this. Ensign Feinney of the Pennsils^{va} Troop marched hence this Morning for Fort Cumberland with about 26 Men. One half Invalids they were left sick here when Major Halls marched for Bass Town.

To General Forbes. F. F. the 22nd of Aug^r. 1758.

In consequence of the Quore proposed in Your Letter of the 16th Inst I sent an Officer immediately down ^{of Company} to try the Disposition of the Militia. who writes me that about 250 Volunteers have offered their Service to go with me & take possession of Fort Cumberland for a week or a month. If approved of I propose to be there on Friday or Saturday next come Sun night or any time after that Your Excellency shall appoint. It will necessary for me to have Your Excellency's Order to the Commissary for supplying the Officers & Men with Provision likewise a power to purchase some Salt Vinegar & pepper & to give each man a Gill of Rum a Day. As it will not be in my