

actually paid for carrying Provisions to Fort Cumberland ever since that place has
been garrisoned by Maryland Forces, which three Articles will amount I suppose to
near £3000 Currency & for this he only desired at present £500 stg which Your
Excellency was pleased to agree to advance & was in consequence of that Agreement
in Expectation that You would have wrote to Mr Shilby or Mr Howell to advance it
that I drew on Mr Howell for that Sum. I have endeavoured Sir to explain to
You in the clearest manner what I have done in consequence of the Proposals made
by Your Excellency & Mr Shilby as I understood them; You have learnt from Dr Pops
Letter what Difficulties he has been brought into; it has been given out it seems in
Phila. that he & I together intended & endeavoured to defraud Mr Howell of a very
considerable Sum & I doubt not but Doctor Pops being imprisoned will put the
matter beyond all Dispute with many in this Province at least all the Doctors En-
emies & mine will seem to believe it; & indeed this will be using Us very generously
if I compare it with what happened here some time since when an Occasion was
taken from my coming with a Party of Militia to the Frontiers to propagate a
Report in several Parts of the Province that I was actually gone to Fort Duquesne
to join his Majesty's Enemies. I could mention some more Instances to convince You
that the Doctors Anxiety about the Consequences of his being imprisoned on this Occasion
as for an intended Fraud is not without Reason, His Enemies in the Lower House
of Assembly are not few & he has probably many Rivals in Trade that would be glad
of an Opportunity to injure his Credit; but not to detain the Express any longer or keep
the Doctor longer in Suspence than was unavoidable. I shall only add that if a
most earnest Desire to promote His Majesty's Service, if an Inclination to oblige all
with whom he has been concerned or if the strictest honesty could have kept him
out of Prison he would not at this time be in Custody at Phila. The Attendance
he has been obliged ^{to give} at Annapolis, here; at Carlisle, & at Phila. this Summer in
order to get a part of what is most justly due to him & for the payment whereof
both the Earl of Loudoun & General Stanwic engaged, has made him neglect his
Business in such a manner that he must be a great Sufferer & the Ships which he
should have loaded with Tobacco before this time may probably for want of his
presence at home be detained after the Convoy sails for Europe; These Considerations
will I am persuaded incline Your Excellency to write to Mr Howell in such Terms
as that the Doctor might not be detained any longer at Phila. otherwise perhaps