

The Place of general (Pendergous) & about 35 Miles to the Eastward of Fort Duquesne,
the last of those 3000 Men marched from Rays Town the 23rd Inst & there still
remains at that place, about 1000. The Army in general, is very healthy, the Pennsylvanians
& New Jersey & those that came from Carolina, are the only Corps that have any Reason
to complain of Sickness. But I am sorry to inform You that General Forbes has not
yet left Shippensburg (which lies upwards of 75 Miles to the Eastward of Rays Town)
being laid up there, by the Flux with which he was attacked, more than a Month, &
at Carlisle. He tells me however in a Letter dated the 23rd Inst that he now finds
himself recovering & that he hopes he shall be strong enough to travel in a few Days.
He has likewise intimated to me, that he expects a sufficient Quantity of Stores &
Provisions will be carried on to the Fort which St John Mc Lair is building at
Laurel hannon in less than a Fortnight & that being determined to proceed directly
afterwards to Fort Duquesne, & willing to march with as strong a Force as possible,
he should be extremely glad if I could garrison Fort Cumberland with Militia, for three
Weeks or a Month, that he might draw all the Virginia Troops from that post to
strengthen the Rear of his Army. As our Assembly when they met last made some
Resolves declaring our Militia Law to be obsolete or not in Force & denying that
I have any Authority or Right with the Advice of the Council, to march any of
the Militia, even if our Law was in Force, unless in Case of an actual Invasion,
or as they construe that Expression, unless a very large Body of the Enemy was ac-
tually in the Heart of the Province, I have told the General, that I am afraid
no more of the Militia would be prevailed on to come, even thus far if I was to
attempt to carry 'em to Fort Cumberland, but I am endeavouring to get 200 or
250 Volunteers to accompany me to Fort Cumberland & to stay there till the Affair
is decided & I am in hopes that I shall be able to march hence, with that Num-
ber in about a Week, which will be as soon as the General will want to draw
the Virginians from Fort Cumberland. In that Case, I shall appoint One of the
Field Officers of our Militia, to take the Command at this Fort, which has been
garrisoned by Militia ever since I came, hither the 15th of June, & I have the Satisfac-
tion to inform You that altho they were dissuaded from coming out & encouraged
to desert since they have been here by several Members of our Assembly who say