

at that Season. His Ldp. desired me to keep ours there, untill the Spring if it was
by any means possible, & that no Encouragement might be wanting His Ldp. permitted
me to promise them that if the Assembly should refuse to pay them at their next Meeting
he would, & Colo Stanwix with the Earl of Loudoun's Approbation gave the Person that
had been employed by the Assembly to supply our Troops with provisions till that time
a Warrant or Order to continue to victual them as long as they should be kept at that
Post. Relying on the Earl of Loudoun's Engagement the Officers scrupled not to advance
Money for their Men as long as they had any themselves & they have been victualled almost
ever since upon the Faith of General Stanwix's Warrant. In March last when the Earl
of Loudoun received Orders to leave America I submitted a State of the whole Affair to
General Abercromby & beg'd him to let me know whether he could undertake to fulfill
the Earl of Loudoun's Engagement & in case he could not I intreated him to order
some other Troops to Fort Cumberland lest ours should abandon it which I began to
be much afraid of as I found that one of the Members of our Assembly had been among the
Men & taken some pains to make them believe that they would never be paid for doing
Duty there & moreover that they could not be thereafter punished for Deserting. I had ne-
ver the pleasure to receive an Answer from His Excellency General Abercromby but Brig-
adier Forbes wrote to me soon afterwards & desired me to keep the Maryland Troops
at Fort Cumberland at all Events giving me Room at the same time to think that
General Abercromby would empower him to fulfill the Earl of Loudoun's Engagement in
case the Assembly should still adhere to their former Resolution or decline to perform what
was required of them by Your Letter of the 30 of Dec. & which they had then under
consideration. The Assembly having broke up in May last without granting any Sup-
plies I wrote once more to General Forbes in behalf of our Troops & the Person that
had victualled them & afterwards waited on him but by what I can find General Aber-
cromby being of Opinion that the Province of Maryland ought to pay their own
Troops declines to concern himself at all with them; the Person that has victualled the
Troops is in the mean time driven to the greatest Straights by having advanced about 2000
l^{rs} (which is more than his whole Fortune) upon the Credit of the Earl of Loudoun's
Letter to me & in pursuance of General Stanwix's Warrant to himself & unless something
could be done for our Officers by a new Assembly which is to meet the Beginning
of Oct. I am persuaded that many of them will be thrown in Prison for the Debts they