

glatters himself that he is now on the Recovery & that he shall be able to travel in  
two or three Days. As he is very desirous to march against the Enemy with as great a  
Force, as he can he has desired me to garrison Fort Cumberland for three or four Weeks  
with Militia; which will leave him at Liberty to strengthen the Rear of his Army  
with the Virginia Troops that are at present there. I am apprehensive that if I was to  
order any of the Militia to that distant Post None of them would be afterwards pro-  
vailed on to come thus far, but I am endeavouring to get 200 or 250 Volunteers for  
that Service. All the Encouragement that I give them is that I shall take the Com-  
mand of them myself & stay with them at Fort Cumberland as long as their Service  
there shall be necessary & I am apt to think I shall be joined by as many as I want  
before the Rear of the Army is ready to move from Rays Town which perhaps if the  
General can get thither it might be in about a week from this time. I learn  
from a Person that left Rays Town the 22<sup>d</sup> Inst. that St. M'Clair had opened a Road  
from that place to a River called the Laurel hannon, which is about 90 Miles beyond  
Rays Town & not more than 35 to the Eastward of Fort Du Quene; that he was build-  
ing a Fort just on this Side the River & that about 3000 Men including the working  
& Covering Parties that St. John had with him were gone on to take Post there. The Troops  
left at Rays Town with Colo Bouquet amount to about 1000 & there are some De-  
tachments still employed in conveying up Provisions & Stores to Rays Town & from thence  
to the advanced Post. I do not find that the General has been hitherto able to get any  
Intelligence of the Enemy's Strength on the Ohio but a Company of 20 Volunteers that I  
have lately raised on the Frontiers of this Province & who are all what we call Men  
men & excellent Marksmen went from the Laurel hannon the 22<sup>d</sup> in order to make Dis-  
coveries. All the Indians that were with our Troops except 6 are returned home, it is said  
that about 20 others are coming thro Virginia to join the Army but I hope the General  
does not depend at all on Indian Assistance. You have I presume by this time re-  
ceived Advice of General Abercromby's being repulsed in an Attempt to force the French  
Lines before Ticonderoga, & perhaps a more just Account of that Affair than the Gen-  
rals Reports have communicated to us, by what I can find the General is exceedingly blamed  
to the Northward for not having taken time to reconnoitre the Enemy & the Adjacent Country  
before he attacked them, also for having marched his whole Army up to the Intrenchment  
when he might have landed a Part of them & some of his Artillery on the N. E. Side  
of Lake George & by that means have annoyed the Enemy & divided their Force. He is