

ill. spare. As the Weather has been very good for this fortnight past & still continues favourable I am in hopes that the Troops have before this time overcome all the Difficulties that they may have expected to meet with on their March & that by a Vessel which is to sail hence in 10 or 10 Days for London I shall be able to send You an agreeable Account of the Event of this Western Expedition. Being obliged to return home from the Frontiers to meet the Assembly at this time, I have prest to provide for the Payment of the Maryland Troops that have continued with the General during the Campaign but I am afraid they will never agree to raise a Money on any Account whatever unless the Gentlemen of the Upper House will pass the Bill which they have so often refused & concerning which I took the Liberty to write to You in former Letters.

To Mr Pitt the 8th of Decem: 1758.

Sir Since I did myself the Honour to write to You the 20th of Novem: We have received Advice by the Way of Winchester in Virginia which was brought thither from the Loyalhannon by a Lieut: of the Virginia Forces that the French had carried the Artillery & all their Stores from Fort Du Querne down the Ohio the 20th or 21st of last Month a few Days before General Forbes arrived there, & that they had before they went off destroyed the Fort & all the Houses which had been built near it as well on the other as on this Side the River. I am informed that Letters have been received by several Persons in the Western Parts of Pensilvania wherein their Friends at Loyalhannon give them the same Account & altho I have not myself received any such Advice from the General or any Officer under his Command yet I do not in the least doubt but the Enemy have actually abandoned Fort Du Querne agreeable to the above Relation & as there is a Vessel just about to sail from this Province I thought it my Duty to communicate to You what I have heard & give Credit to a