

To Mr. Pitt. Annapolis the 14<sup>th</sup> of Decem: 1758

Sir  
It is with great pleasure I write by Ship that is just about to sail from this Province to inform You that an Officer of the Maryland Troops arrived here Yesterday from the Westward & brought the agreeable News of His Majesty's Troops under the Command of General Forbes having on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Novem: taken Possession of Fort Duquesne which the French in Number about 500 had abandoned two Days before. A Virginia Indian that he had been a Prisoner there for some time made his Escape from them when they were going off & says that about 250 of the Enemy fell down the River in Battues carrying the Artillery & Stores with them & that the next Day after they had set fire to all the Barracks & Houses which had been built either near or near the Fort marched Northwards but that they were in want of provisions with them having been in great Want for some time before. I understand from the Officer that brings me this Account that the General intends to leave 200 Men of the Provincial Troops to garrison the Fort during the Winter, 150 more at the Post on Loyalhannon & that all the Rest are on their March to take up their Winter Quarters either in the Forts on the Frontiers of these Colonies or among the Inhabitants.

To General Forbes. Annapolis the 30<sup>th</sup> of Decem: 1758

Sir  
Colo Dagworthy having intimated to me that he intends to repair immediately to Head Quarters to receive Your farther Commands, I embrace the Opportunity to congratulate Your Excellency on the Success of His Majesty's Forces under Your Command & to inform You that a few Days before Colo Dagworthy arrived here with the most agreeable News of Your Excellency having forced the French to abandon Fort Duquesne