

There were three or four Barrells or Parts of Barrells of Powder & some useful
Arms some of which were probably loaded, while the Genl^l were pulling
out the tents I imagine that one of the Firelocks must have fallen down
& gone off otherwise I cannot account for the unhappy Accident. All that
we know for certain is that the Store was blown up the Captain & Adjutant
killed, the Fort in an Instant set on fire in several Places particularly in
one a very few Yards only from the grand Magazine of Powder, the Door
of which was burst open. When the Virginians marched they left more
than a hundred Men sick in the Hospital, these dying very fast: some
times three or four in a Day & many of the Militia being taken ill
they began to be uneasy & I foresaw that it would not be in my Power
to keep them there a Day longer than they had engaged to remain with
me when they first went up, I perceived likewise that I could not do
the General much Service by continuing there untill that time as I
was well informed that S^r S^r Clair could not before the Middle of
Oct. return to Annapolis with the Waggon which he had gone down
the Country to collect in which the General expected to receive his
last Supply of Provisions, however as the General appeared more sanguine
in his Expectations than I thought he had reason to be I stayed at
Fort Cumberland untill the 10th of Oct. when about 50 of the Virginians who had
been left in the Hospital being pretty well recovered & able to do Duty I resign
up the Fort to their commanding Officers having first wrote to the General
& obtained his Approbation; the 3rd Day afterwards I returned to Fort Fred-
rich, & having ordered out another Company to relieve the Militia which was
garrisoned that place, I set off & came to Annapolis the 19th of Oct. in order
to meet the Assembly which has been sitting ever since the 23rd of that Month
I shall take the Liberty to inclose Your L^{dy} a copy of my Speech to them
at the Opening of the Session & the Addresses which the two Houses were plea-
sed to present in answer thereto, the Gent^l of the Lower House have Resolved that
they will reimburse the General & pay off the arrears that are due to the
Maryland Troops out of the first Supplies that shall be granted, but as the
present