

An English Boy who had been some time a Prisoner there - made his Escape from them after they left the Fort says that about 250 of them fell down the River Ohio in Battos carrying all their Stores & Ashes with them & that the Rest went up the River towards Venango where they have a small Moccado Fort. He agrees with the Prisoners who were taken the 12th of Novem^r as I mentioned to you in my Letter of the 20th of that Month that the Garrison had for several Weeks been in great want of Provisions & in all Probability it was this want that occasioned their Departure & perhaps obliged their Indians to leave them sooner than they would otherwise have done. A few Hours after General Forbes had taken Possession of the Fort four of the Ohio Indians came to him with a Message from their respective Tribes & next Day the Deputy Agent for Indian Affairs & an Interpreter were sent off with an Answer & it is expected that all the Indians on the Ohio will immediately come in & sue for Peace. The General intends as you will learn from a Copy of the Orders that he gave out the 29th of Nov^r & which I have taken the Liberty to inclose for His L^{ty} to leave 200 Provincials as a Garrison at Fort Duquesne during the Winter & before the Summer I hope effectual measures will be taken for its preservation; but I shall be sorry if it is left to the Colonies to provide for the Support of its Garrison.

To Lord Baltimore, Annapolis the 16 Decem^r 1758.

My L^{ty} M^r Calvert Your L^{ty}s Secretary having intimated to me some time ago that it had been reported by some Persons in England who were supposed to have Correspondents here that Roman Catholics are too much Countenanced in Your L^{ty}s Province; that in Consequence thereof their Number increases & that many of them have lately behaved in such a manner as to give His Majesty's Protestant Subjects in the