

of mine were punctually obeyed. The latter end of Sept., the first division of the Maryland company marched for Will's Creek and the officers received my urgent orders to compleat the company with the utmost dispatch and muster at Col. Cresaps. At the same time I received a letter from Col. Washington at Alexandria wherein he acquainted me that he was in hourly expectation of money and orders from Gov'r. Dinwiddie to conduct the Virginia troops and join the independants who then rendezvoused at Will's Creek, but before many days had elapsed I was informed by Gov'r Dinwiddie himself, that he had just then been obliged to prorogue the Assembly of that Province because they would not grant a sum of money for the service in such a manner as he could concur with, "this circumstance" says he, "has made me give over all thoughts of acting this fall especially, as the Virginia troops by their defeat, deaths and desertions, are now reduced to 150, and the N. Carolina forces have all disbanded themselves, which was occasioned by a monstrous management of them from the beginning. They raised £12,000 *procla* money. The President of that colony gave the private men 3 a day and the officers in proportion so that their money was wholly expended before they joined the other forces and w'd serve no longer without assurance of the above pay, under these great disappointments I determined to keep the few people we have in pay and propose 100 of them to march to Will's Creek to join the Independant companies and to endeavour to secure a pass over the Allegany mountains by erecting a Fort and leaving a sufficient number of men therein with a proper quantity of provision to facilitate our operations next spring which is all I think possible to be done now." In October Governor Dobbs arrived as I before informed you, and while I was at Williamsburg the Assembly of that government granted £20,000 more for the service, which however will not be all raised till that time twelvemonths.

Gov. Dinwiddie had also received £10,000 from England with liberty to draw Bills for as much more out of which he promised to remit all his officers money immediately to go recruiting and flattered himself with hopes of being able to muster 500 or 600 men in Virg'a in a month or 6 weeks from that time. Upon my Return to Annapolis I called a new Assembly to meet the 10th of December, with sanguine hopes of finding them well disposed to grant sufficient supplies, and in the intervening time I paid a visit to the Independant companies who were encamped and building themselves a kind of Fort and Barracks at Will's Creek and on my way I called at Alexandria where the Virginians were quartered, and to my concern found that a very trifling sum of money had been sent hither of which 6 or 8 officers were to have a dividend and disperse themselves into the country to compleat their respective companies. Being well assured from experience that little success could be expected from their endeavours unless they were liberally supplied with money I advanced them 98 pistols and gave one of them liberty to draw on me for more money in