

proportion to his success which I expected Governor Dinwiddie would repay me out of the Virg'a Fund:

How little my first visit to Will's Creek increased my hopes of being able to succeed in any attempt on the enemy or to execute my commission with any reputation I before hinted to you, scarce a morsel of provision was laid in but what I had ordered Cresap to provide, indeed so great was the scarcity of flour at the camp when I arrived there that unless I had given Cresap orders to supply the Independant companies from his store, they must actually have deserted the Fort they had built in a day or two for want of bread, and I suppose you will not entertain a very high opinion of the troops that I was to command when I tell you that out of one of the Independant companies only Sir John St Clair on reviewing them has discharged more than 40 as unfit for service.

At my return I acquainted Governor Dinwiddie with the state of those affairs and desired him to take some measures to recover if possible the public credit which was sunk to the lowest ebb, by the inability or negligence of the chief commissary of stores and a parcel of dirty fellows that being employed as his deputies had contracted debts with the country people for a thousand pounds and upwards without making any payments. I also writ to the commanding officer of the Virg'a Troops to prepare to march on a certain day for the camp where they may be employed in building store houses and in any other services. The 9th of Dec. I returned to Annapolis, the Assembly met the day following and by their professions at the opening of the session fed me with hopes of large supplies but when they came to the point a bill was brought in for £7,000, to raise which the ordinary lycences were to be further mortgaged and that his Ldp's instructions positively forbad me to comply with, so our Assembly broke up without giving any more aids than the several northern colonies to whom I had on the receipt of his Majesty's commission addressed myself for assistance. About this time we were informed by many letters from England that 2 Regiments were ordered hither from Ireland to be under the command of a general officer, that Transports sailed to Ireland to take them on board in Nov. and that ordnance stores were shipped at the Tower, and also some of the train.

This acco't was confirmed to me by Governor Dinwiddie the 2d of Jan'y, and within a few days I received a letter from Sir Thos. Robinson to the same purport. Upon this I again set off for the camp to make some preparations for the reception of the British troops at their arrival, in case the general should choose to march them thither, to make an early campaign; when I had been there about a week, superintending that business, I had the pleasure of seeing Sir John St. Clair arrive on the same errand and with the same design, we took our leave of the camp the 2d day afterwards, and giving the commissaries that Gov'r Dinwiddie had now appointed, proper directions for laying provision