

expedient than I had before conceived and I was glad to find that my presence and the promises that I made them, that I would take effectual measures for their protection and security prevailed on some that I met retreating and on others that had passed me to return back and resolve to remain on their respective plantations. I ordered some small forts to be constructed at proper places in the distant parts of the Province to which the neighboring families may resort in case of danger or alarms. These forts I have garrisoned with small parties of volontiers that I carried up with me who have orders to be continually patrolling from one to the other, to keep the communication between the inhabitants open, and if Indian parties venture to make incursions to give the alarm and dispose themselves in such a manner as to cut off their retreat.

The expence hereof I shall be enabled to defray by the subscription that has been made and out of the same fund I shall support the Maryland company that was with the General which is now at Fort Cumberland with the N. Carolina and the remains of the Virginia forces. I found by Col. Dunbar and the other officers that I visited at the fort that there had been many unhappy divisions in the army that Gen. Braddock commanded. Himself and the two Colonels were scarcely on speaking terms, and very few besides four or five favorites mention him with regret. It has been hinted to me that in case he had succeeded against the fort the several companies that have been raised in and that are supported by these Provinces would have been regimented and given to Lieut. Col. Burton of Dunbar's, Captain Morris one of the aid de camps, was to have been Lieut. Col., and Capt. Dobson Major, and Capt. Orme the other aid de camp was to have succeeded Burton as Lieut. Col. in the regiment that Dunbar commands.

This it is said the General requested by letters sent home before the action, but possibly the unhappy turn that affairs have now taken may prevent the Ministry's compliance with the request.

Inclosed you have an exact and regimental return of the officers and men that fell in the action, of them that were wounded and those that escaped unhurt, some few have since died of their wounds at Fort Cumberland where the Hospital yet remains.

*Sr. J. St. Clair was shot thro' the body, under the right pap, but is in a fair way to recover, and I expect him here in a fortnight or three weeks.*

It was I think as extraordinary a defeat as ever was heard of, 'tis supposed that the Indians who that day opposed General Braddock were not less than 1500 or 2000, yet none of the English that were engaged saw more than one hundred, and many of the officers as well as men who were the whole time of its continuance in the heat of the action will not assert that they saw an enemy. When the detachment of 300 commanded by Lieut. Col. Gage was beyond the river about 3-4 of a mile they were fired on from an eminence or small hill which they were about to ascend, upon which they returned the fire and halted till Sr. J. St. Clair with the detachment of 200 came up, the General immedi-