

HONOURED SIR,

Baker's Fort, May 10th, 1757.

I AND my Brother are now at *Conestogone* with about Sixty Men, and ever since I reached that Place, notwithstanding several small Parties of *Indians* were seen, yet the People were encouraged to provide, to sow and plant Corn, till the unhappy News came of the *Indians* defeating our Forces at Fort *Cumberland*, together with the Information of the Prisoners that escaped from Fort *Duquene*, giving an Account of a large Number of the Enemy's Design on our Parts, which I make no Doubt but your Excellency has had a full Account of, with a Design to destroy all our Settlements, which we are not able to defend against so great a Force, without more Help if it should be true. What most affects us is to see the People so much Dispirited at the late Altercations, as our Company consists mostly of good Woodmen, shall use our utmost Endeavours to defend the Place against any Number that don't much exceed ours. I am, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and humble Servant,

JOSEPH CHAPLINE.

HONOURED SIR,

Baker's Fort, May 14, 1757.

THERE hath nothing happened of Consequence on our Frontier since I wrote last. We have searched the *North-Mountain*, and all the other Covers that we could think the *Indians* could conceal themselves in, near the Inhabitants, but found none. I am informed, that a Party of *Indians* kill'd and scalp'd one Man, and took away another Prisoner last Tuesday from the Mouth of *Capacton*, and about seven Miles from the Mouth of *Conestogone*; but as we have increased our Company, including ourselves, to near seventy Men, we are in Hopes that we shall keep the Settlement from moving, as we shall use all the Care and Diligence we can to deter the Enemy from breaking in on that Quarter. We also thought proper to acquaint your Excellency, that if you think it proper to keep up a Party of the Militia longer than a Month in these Parts, the Company under our Command will be willing to serve rather than the Settlement should be broke up, which certainly will be the Case unless a constant Party is kept in the Place where we are. I am, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and humble Servant,

JOSEPH CHAPLINE.

P. S. After writing this Letter, I received the agreeable News of the Success of the *Cherokee Indians*.

Capt.

S I R,

Annapolis, May 12, 1757.

THE Governor hath me acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter, dated the 10th Instant at *Baker's Fort*, and to inform you, that as he is now impowred to augment the Troops, in the Pay of this Province, to 500 Men, you may soon expect more at Fort *Frederick*, for the Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants. In the mean Time he advises you to be on your Guard; but at the same Time to make yourself and the People about you easy. With regard to the Action, or rather Skirmish, that happened the 24th of the Month at Fort *Cumberland*, you seem to have been misinformed. I presume you know, that there is a considerable Number of *Cherokees*, and other *Indians* in our Alliance, at Fort *Frederick*, or Ranging on the Frontiers. His Excellency orders me to let you know also, that Col. *Stanton* is marching to *Carlisle* in Pennsylvania, with part of the *Royal American Regiment*, that in Case any large Body of the Enemy should advance towards either of these Colonies, he might be ready to oppose them. After you left *Baltimore*, the Governor was given to understand, that you had, during your Stay there, informed the Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly, that Capt. *Dagworthy*, and Others of the Officers in the Pay of this Province, have been Guilty of many notorious Frauds, which, on that Occasion, you particularized. His Excellency bid me mention this to you, and desires you will communicate to him what you know of such Proceedings: He also orders me to assure you, that if you have hitherto declined advising him of any Affairs upon a Supposition that he connived at them, or would be averse to punishing the Aggressors, you have done him great Injustice. I am, Sir,

Your most humble and obedient Servant,

J. RIDOUT.

Capt. Joseph Chapline.

HONOURED SIR,

Baker's Fort, May 18th, 1757.

I THIS Day received a Letter from Mr. *Ridout*, wherein he acquaints me, that I and the People may make ourselves easy, as Col. *Stanton* and his Regiment, and our Provincial Troops, will march soon, which