

Letter Bk. I. appropriated to support these Men except the Sum of £4000 which is reserved to pay for any Enemy Indians that shall be taken Prisoners, & for the Scalps of such as shall be killed. While the Assembly was sitting I received a Letter from a Party of Cherokee Indians who were just come to Fort Frederick. I send your Lordship a Copy thereof together with one of the Report that has been made to me by the Gentlemen whom I appointed to carry them my Answer & to
 p. 267 deliver them a very small Present which the Assembly enabled me to send them. I hear that the Party of these People that was come to Winchester (in number about 90) went out near a fortnight ago with a considerable Detachment from the Virginia Regiment to fall on one of the Shawana Towns which lye a great way below Fort du Quesne. They that were at Fort Frederick are since gone to Winchester but I expect most of them will return to our Frontiers very shortly as I have given the Interpreter who has a good Deal of Influence among them a Commission in one of our Companies; They will be of great Service to our People by teaching them to track & surprize the Enemy & will I am persuaded contribute very much to the Security of the Frontier Inhabitants. I have given the Commandant at the Fort Orders to send an Officer & some Men with them as often as they go out on the Scout & am glad to find that they are fond of having some of our People with them, out of Compliment to the White People that accompanied them the other Day they permitted them to make the first Fire on the Enemy whom they found at Breakfast after having pursued their Tracks two Days & when they received my Present for the Scalps they gave the Soldiers that were with them a Share, & gave no room to complain of their Behaviour unless their Refusing to give up the Prisoners & to suffer their Scalps to be destroyed agreeable to the Directions of our Act of Assembly can be called criminal. For my part I think they should be indulged in their own Customs as much as possible & as the Evidence of the Officer & Men that
 p. 268 will always go out with them is enough to prevent the Frauds that the Assembly were solicitous to provide against, I shall endeavour to get that part of the Act which forbids the Agents to pay for any Enemy's Scalps till they are actually burnt repealed at the next Session. Some of the Men that are posted at Fort Cumberland (the Garrison of which place at this time consists of 150 Men under the Command of Capt Dagworthy) have lately had several Skirmishes with Parties of the Enemy that have appeared near the Fort, but they have not succeeded so far as to bring in either a Scalp or a Prisoner. I am informed by Capt Dagworthy that a Sergeant of the Virginia Regiment & a Catawba Indian who were