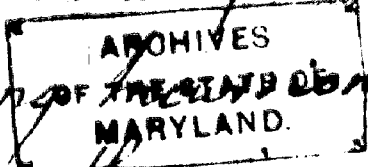


excused by custom the Militia ¹⁵⁹ does not exceed the Number above mentioned.
There are no Forts in this Province that deserve the Name of
Fortifications: just behind & among our most western Settlements
are some small Stockado or Palisadoe Forts to which the Inhabi-
tants may carry their wives & Children for Protection in case of
Alarms, while themselves unite & endeavour to prevent any small
Dashes of Indians making ^{OF THE STATE OF} destroying their Stock &
Habitations: beside these there is one larger, tho in my Opinion
not much more capable of Defence; on Potowmack about 46
miles beyond our Settlements, it has been distinguished by the
Appellation of Fort Cumberland & is at present garrisoned ^{by} with
400 men from Virg^a, this 400th Ten of the Carriage Guns that
His Majesty was graciously pleased to order to Virg^a two years
since we mounted them in this Fort which is made with Stones
& commanded almost on every Side by circumjacent Hills. About
16 miles on this Side thereof is an Eminence situated just at the
Confluence of the two Streams called the North & South Branches of
Potowmack, & almost as far up as that River is Navigable for
the smallest Craft, which might be easily fortified & think rendered
very strong at a small Expence. Should any more Troops be marched
thro Virg^a to the westward a Place of Arms thereabouts would be
absolutely necessary, I believe nothing would contribute more effectually
to the Security of this & the contiguous Parts of the two
Neighbouring Colonies than the Constructing a strong Fort there
& garrisoning it with a sufficient Number of Men. This in Obedience
to the Orders that I had the honour to receive I humbly submit
to yr L^{ds} & am Wth Hon^{ble} &c



To John Pownall Esq^r Secy to the Board of Trade
8 Feb^r 1764
In Obedience to their L^{ds} Commands I send you in-
closed particular Answers to the Heads of Enquiry that