

the Ministry, but as it will be presented to Fox soon after you receive this, possibly you may make as good a use of it as if you had it to deliver yourself: I defy writing to Jennings till I know the Determination of the Lower House of Assembly on a Matter which concerns myself & him & about which he writ to me; but if your fears about him have proved groundless we shall receive a Letter by the next Ship that sails.

To The Rt Honble Henry Fox, Esq Secretary of State: the 13th of May 1756

Rt Honble

In Obedience to your Commands signified in a Lett which I did myself the honour to acknowledge my Receipt of the 8th of March I am now to inform you that soon after my Return from N York where I had been attending General Shirley last Nov^r & Decem^r I convened the Assembly of this Province & laying before them the Generals Plan of Operations exhorted & pressed them to contribute as much as was in their power towards carrying it into Execution, & to provide for the Defence & Security of the Frontiers of this Province on which some Parties of Indians had begun to make Incursions. After having sat some weeks they voted about £25000 M^o for His Majesty's Service & have been since preparing a Bill for that purpose. They intend to appropriate part of the Money for building a Fort of the Frontiers of this Province & garrisoning it with 200 Men, but as the Fort is to be 60 Miles on this Side Fort Cumberland & the Men to be all disbanded next winter, I am afraid the Money will be expended without contributing much to the Security of the Inhabitants of this Province or promoting the Common Cause. I have endeavoured to convince the Assembly of this & to persuade them to let the Money be disposed of in such a manner as would most effectually preserve their Country & offend the Enemy, & in Order to this I have recommended the building a strong Fort on an Eminence at the conflux of the North & South Branches of Potomack (on the Expediency of which I took the Liberty in Feb^y last to communicate my Sentiments to the Rt Honble the Lords of Trade) which with a small Fort between that place & that where our People intend to build one would always keep open the Communication between the Inhabitants of Fort Cumberland & would be very convenient or rather absolutely necessary as a Place of Arms in any future Expeditions to the Westward, a Body of 500 or 600 Men which had I know with to support them I could easily raise from among our Inhabitants, posted in those Forts with Orders to be constantly patrolling or ranging on the Frontiers would effectually prevent any Incursions of Indians & be always ready to act in conjunction with any Troops that should be raised in the Neighbouring Colonies, or able of themselves to send Detachments