

two Months ago General Shirley sent me a Commission to take the Command of all the Forces that I could persuade these Southern Colonies to raise for carrying on an Expedition or making a Diversion to the Westward, as I found the several Assemblies did not so readily come into the proposal as the General seemed to have expected, & as His Excellency had thought proper to order from Virginia all the Field Pieces &c. that were there & all indeed that were to be found in these Southern Colonies, I returned him Thanks for his kind Intention in sending me such a Commission, but intimated to him that as the Colonies would do nothing & had not empowered me to draw for a Shilling the Reduction of Fort Du Quesne would be impracticable without either more Artillery Arms Ammunition or Provisions, & nothing farther remains for me to do than to urge our Assembly to grant a Sum of Money for the Defence of their own Frontiers, tho that as has been already hinted can never be effectually done while the French remain Masters of the Ohio & consequently of all the Indians to the Westward of these Provinces. We learn from some of our back Inhabitants who were captivated by the Indians but have lately made their Escape that the French at Fort Du Quesne (whose Numbers by what I can find are but small) purchase those of our Men that the Indians take Prisoners & keep them employed in building Barracks near the Fort for the Reception of the numerous Tribes of Indians that have since the Action of the Monongahela come into their Alliance & who are to be employed henceforward in harrying & depopulating these poor defenceless & infatuated Colonies.

To Governor Dinwiddie the 10th of May. 1756

We The alarming Accounts that we have lately received from the Frontiers of Virg. & which by your Letter dated the 29th of April are confirmed give me great Concern but I hope the Steps you have taken will in some sort put a Stop to such Incursions tho that can never be effectually done till a sufficient Body of Troops can be formed to march & annoy the Enemy in their own Country & when that will be I know not unless Troops are sent from Europe to these Colonies for I hear the Pensilvanians have not come to any Resolution to grant farther Supplies nor do they seem much disposed to raise any Men to be marched out of that Province. Our Assembly is still sitting, some Gent^l from each House have been more than a Week conferring on the Subject Matter of a Supply Bill; I believe there will be one passed but by what I can find will be framed in such a manner as to contribute little to the Safety of the Province or promote His Majesty's Service. A Fort it seems is to be built on the North Mountain about 10 Miles above the Mouth of Conegocheigh, & 200

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