

To Governor Dinwiddie the 25 of August 1706

I embrace this Opportunity by Col. Ludwell to thank You for Your Letter of the 15th June & the Treaty therein contained, while I was on our Frontiers at Fort Frederick Washington paid me a Visit & informed me that he was also by Your Orders raising a Fort at Winchester to which as soon as it should be completed the Stores were to be removed from Fort Cumberland, this Step is in my Opinion very expedient as there is no probability of our carrying on an Expedition to the Westward this Season or next such a Post should before next Spring allure the Enemy, induce them to attack that Fort the Prediction of which a large Body of them may not think impracticable. This Morning I have received a Letter from Governor Morris wherein he informs me that Fort Granville (which the Pensilv^a Commissioners had constructed last Year on the Western Frontiers of that Province) was on the 30th ult. attacked & burnt by a Body of French assisted by a Number of Indians all under the Command of a French Officer. There were but a Lieut. & 24 Men in the Fort when it was attacked the Rest of the Garrison & Officers being out to cover some people who were reaping & securing their Grain. The Lieut. & a few Men being killed the Rest of the Garrison surrendered & were all, except him who brings this Account carried away prisoners the Young Men & the Women by the French & the older Men & Children by the Indians. On or near the place where the Fort stood they set up & left a French Flag & also as it is said a French Lett^r but of the Lett^r Gov^r Morris says Nothing. This Accident & some Ravages that have been lately committed in Cumberland Counties it seems so terrified the Pensilv^aians who were settled in that part of the Country that they are deserting their Habitations very fast & will probably ere long unless the Assembly makes better provision for their Defence all retire over the Susquehanna which Governor Morris says he expects will be their extreme Frontier. As the Inhabitants have evacuated a Fort that was built at McDowels Mill & which kept the Communication open between ^{the Catawattans} Forts Shirley & Littleton Mr Morris seems in pain for those two places which he says if all Communication with them should be cut off would become an easy conquest but to prevent so fatal an Accident I propose if the Council whom I am just about to meet approve thereof to order one of our Officers & a Detachment of 50 Men from Fort Frederick to McDowels or some other of their Forts till their Assembly which is next come to some Resolution & can send their Wacha Inhabitants some Assistance. Fort Granville was according to the Information I have heretofore been able to get situated a little to the North of the Juniata & about 20 Miles west from the Mouth of that River. Forts Littleton & Shirley lie to the Southward of Juniata, the latter about 20 Miles Eastward of Rays Town & 20 North of one I had built near Potomack on Tonallaway Creek, which our Assembly by the Act they made last Session for granting a Supply for the Defence of this Province obliged me to abandon & destroy because it was five or six Miles beyond our present Settlement