

at Fort Cumberland
Seventh Nov^r declined sending any further when our Troops marched, ^{and}
that time the Garrison of Fort Frederiche has been too weak to spare for
voyage, the Men therefore at Fort Cumberland have suffered much & Mr. Hoff
may probably have his Bond put in Suit for not complying with the Terms
of his Contract, which I wish surely he would not run if his Deputy at
Fort Cumberland was not well satisfied of the Justice of the Return that
Lieut^t Linn & Doctor Meares made. But here perhaps it might not be
unnecessary to observe to You tho I think I did it when we were at Phila.
that There left to do with victualling the Troops that are in the pay of
this Province than ^{by the Act} You seem to imagine. By the Act of Assembly which
I lately presented to as well as by that which was before made for His
Majesty's Service & the more immediate Defence of this Province Agents
were appointed who are not dependant on me nor to receive my Directions
about victualling our Troops otherwise than to see them properly supplied.
The Method they take is this, by an Advertisement they invite all
Persons that are inclined to contract for furnishing the Troops with Pro-
visions to deliver in their proposals on a certain Day, the Offer that is
most advantageous for the Country is accepted & no Questions are asked
whether the Person that makes it is agreeable or objectionable to the Govern^r.
Articles are drawn up & Security given for due performance, the Agents are
to pay at a certain Rate ^{per} Diem for victualling every Man that is taken
on the Muster Roll & the Contractor is to take Care that the Soldiers have
no just cause to complain, This being the Case, Can You desire Mr. Hoff
to pay for such Provisions as the Soldiers whom he is bound to satisfy are
on no Account touch or for any thing that was left at the Fort for which
he has no Demand or Occasion, or can he be at all affected by Capt. Dagers
-Thy's passing such a general Receipt as You mention. If You are