

returned from an Excursion so far as Fort Du Quesne had declared that a large
Body of French Regulars & a great Number of Indians were actually advancing
towards the Frontiers of this Province, with a considerable Train of Waggons & some
Artillery. As we have been told by several Persons who having been taken prisoners had
made their Escape from Fort Du Quesne last winter that the French did really intend
to assemble a large Body there in the Summer & to make a Descent on one of these
Colonies, I could not help giving some Credit to the Indian Advice & therefore on
Sunday the Day after I received Dagnorthy's Letter I proceeded towards Fredenich
Town which lies in our Frontier County & is about 80 Miles West from this place.
On my Arrival there I dispatched a Letter to Colo. Stanwix, who is encamped near
Carlyle, on the Borders of Pens. & about 60 Miles North westerly from Fredenich
Town wherein I acquainted him with the reason of my coming thither & told him that
if the Account which we had received was not contradicted before the 23^d of that
Month which was the Thursday following, I should on that Day certainly march
towards Fort Fredenich with about 400 of the Militia of that County, where he
would find me ready to obey any Orders that he should think proper to send, or to
take any Step that might in his Opinion be conducive to His Majesty's Service
& the Security of these Colonies. As soon as my Messenger was dispatched to bridge
I issued such Orders as I thought necessary to the Officers of the Militia in Frede-
rich County & by the Accounts that were brought me next Morning I found that
I should be able to march at the time & with more than the Number that I had
given Colo. Stanwix Reason to expect. However on the Evening of the 22 I had the
pleasure to receive a second Lett^r from Capt Dagnorthy dated the 17th wherein he told
me that another party of Cherokees had returned to Fort Cumberland the Night before
with two Scalps which they had taken within 100 Yds of Fort Du Quesne & had given
him that the Party of the Enemy which had been represented to him by the other
Cherokees as so formidable a Body was no more than a Scalping party & that they took
neither Artillery nor Carriages with them. These last Cherokees declared that they had
lain in Sight of Fort Du Quesne some Days & in particular when the Enemy march'd
thence & were very positive that their Number did not at most exceed 200 or 300. They
told what the Cherokees who first came in & who gave the Alarm had insisted on.