

that the Number of the Enemy who had been represented as so formidable a Body did not exceed 200 or 300 & that they brought neither Waggon nor Artillery with them. As Capt Dagworthy seemed to be convinced of the Truth of this Account & to think that he had nothing to fear from such a Party I then upon dismissed the Militia being unwilling to put them to any Expence or to inconvenience that could be prudently avoided. Since my Return I have received another Letter from Fort Cumberland wherein the Commandant tells me that a Soldier who was taken Prisoner & carried off by the Enemy last Summer when they reduced Fort Granville in Pens.^a is come thither in 16 Days from Fort Du Quesne & declares that in May last the Garrison of that place did not exceed 300 French but that before he came off a Reinforcement of 200 French had come up the Ohio & brought with them a considerable Quantity of Provisions in 12 large Boats & that he was told by some of the Garrison that 700 Men were expected down from a Fort which had been built on this Side the Lakes upon whose Arrival some Expedition of Importance would be undertaken wherein they should have Occasion for 6 Cannon & 2 Mortars that had been got ready for such a purpose. If what he says also about a Party's being sent from Fort Du Quesne a few Days before he left it to cut off our Communication with Fort Cumberland is true It is not I think very improbable that they have a Design on that place. As it is much farther advanced than any other of our Forts it has served as a Place of Retreat to all the Parties of Soldiers or Cherokees that have at times annoyed the Enemy. This the French are not ignorant of, they have heard also that a considerable Quantity of Ammunition & other Stores were left there by Col^o Dunbar & they cannot but see that it is exceedingly weak as well from its Situation as from the Materials wherewith & manner after which it is built. For some time past it has been garrisoned with 150 Men who are in the pay of this Province but I suppose