

to prevent the Garrison of Fort *Cumberland* being supplied with Provisions; it happened, that that Member's Endeavours did not succeed so far as to force the Troops to abandon that Place for Want of Food, but they laid the Commanding Officer at Fort *Frederick* under the Necessity of sending several Parties to Fort *Cumberland*, the latter End of *December*, and in the Month of *January*, to convoy up Provisions for the Use of that Garrison during the Winter.

Such, *Gentlemen*, was the State and Number of our Forces the 9th of *December* last, and such the Service, that, almost naked as they were, those of them that Capt. *Beall* had the immediate Command of, were obliged to perform in the Middle of Winter; let us next examine what Encouragement they had to perform it, and how far they could be considered at that Time in the Pay of this Province.

On the 15th of *October* last, Mr. *Murdock* and Mr. *Dick*, two of the Agents that were appointed to cloath, pay, and victual them, informed me by a Letter, that they had examined their Books, and found that the Money which had been appropriated for the Support of the Troops, which were then employed in the Service of this Province, *was entirely expended*; and I since find, that it had been expended a Week before the Gentlemen gave me that Notice, or at least, that no Pay has been issued to any of the above-mentioned Troops, for their Service, since the 8th Day of *October*. You did indeed frame a Bill, after that Time, for keeping up 300 of the Men for the immediate Defence of the Frontier Inhabitants, but it was such a One as the Earl of *Loudoun* thought the Gentlemen of the Upper House did very wisely in rejecting, though there had been nothing else exceptionable in it, than what related to the Disposition or Distribution of the Men, for whose Support it was intended to provide. The Bill was, I think, returned to your House with a Negative, the First of *December*, and although the Assembly sat till the Sixteenth of that Month, nothing farther was done for the Support of our Troops, or that could afford them any Prospect of being paid; neither did you any Thing which could justify me, in giving the Party of *Cherokees*, that had just before offered us their Service, the least Encouragement to continue on our Frontiers; on the contrary, when I intreated you to appropriate to their Use, Part of the Money which was then in the Hands of the Agents, or in the Loan Office, and which had in Fact been reserved for them, you are pleased to refer me to the Bill that had been rejected, in which, had it passed into a Law, you said such Provision was made as you judged most expedient for cultivating their Friendship; how regular or decent it was to give me such an Answer, or to refer me on that Occasion to a Bill which did not then exist, and which had never been offered to me, or how much this evinced an earnest Desire on your Part to contribute, by the Presence of your good Brothers, as you call them, to the Security of the Frontier Inhabitants, I submit to the Judgment of others.

A few Days after the End of that Session, I was informed by a Letter from the Officer commanding at Fort *Frederick*, that a Member of your House had, on his Return from the Assembly, endeavoured to stir up Sedition among the Soldiers; that among other Things he had told them, their Officers had no Right to punish any Soldier for getting Drunk, that the Money which had been raised for their Support was all expended, that their Officers could have no Authority over them after the 25th of *December*, that they might then go whither they pleased, and that no Person had a Right to apprehend them; should the Gentleman deny that he industriously propagated such a Doctrine among the Troops, there are many Persons ready to prove it, particularly Captain *Ware*, Serjeant *Love*, and a Soldier called *Charles Claggot*.

Had any indifferent Person received such Information as I did at this Time from the Commanding Officer at Fort *Frederick*, could he have imagined that any of the Soldiers would have continued there more than Six Months without Pay, or any Promise of being paid? especially if such Person had given the least Credit to what several Persons were encouraged, or forced, to come from *Frederick County*, in *October* and *November* last, to Swear, namely, That the Men had been ill fed and used barbarously by their respective Officers; and if the Soldiers had been persuaded to disband themselves, before any of the Militia that were ordered out could reach the Frontiers, there is the greatest Reason to conclude, from what has heretofore happened, that not only the Settlement of *Conococheague* would have been broke up, but that very few of the People who lived beyond *Frederick-Town*, would have ventured to remain on their respective Plantations; in which Case they would, it is apprehended, have been taught even by some of yourselves to lay the Blame entirely upon me, for not having ordered a sufficient Number of the Militia to their Assistance, as I had done on former Occasions. I flatter myself, that enough has been already said to justify the Orders that I sent to Captain *Browne* of *Kent County* the 21st of *December*, and to Captain *Casson* soon afterwards; but as you insist that these Orders were issued at a Time when not so much as a Report of an Incurtion was stirring, I cannot help observing to you, That Two Days before my Instructions were sent to the former, I received Advice by a Person who came hither Express, that a large Party of *French* and *Indians* had been discovered