

are again easy & as free from Apprehensions of Danger or at least as supine & indolent as they have been since the Disturbances began. The Alarm was occasioned by some Letters which Capt Dagworthy the Officer who commands at Fort Cumberland sent the 14th of last Month to Col^o Stanwix, Col^o Washington & Myself. By these Lett^{rs} we were informed that some Cherokee Indians who were our Friends & were just 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 Waggon & 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 Dagworthys Letter I proceeded towards Frederick 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^a & about 60 miles north westerly from Frederick 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 Frederick 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 Carlyle I issued such orders as I thought necessary to the Officers of the Militia in Frederick 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 Col^o Stanwix Room to expect. however on the Evening of the 22^d I had the pleasure to receive a second Lett^r from Capt Dagworthy 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 assured 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 marched