

there were a few scattered palisaded forts for the defence of the women and children, and a larger one, Fort Cumberland, scarcely capable of defence as it was commanded on all sides by hills. This fort was located on the Potomac, fifty-six miles beyond the Severn, was garrisoned by three hundred Virginians, and contained some of the military stores which had escaped destruction on the Braddock expedition.

In reply to the inquiry of the Lower House as to the status of the new fortifications recently authorized by the Assembly, the Governor sent a message dated September 25th, submitted plans of Fort Frederick, and communicated a letter from Capt. Alexander Beall giving details of its construction; and the Governor estimated that the fort which was to be constructed on the North Mountain would cost at least £5,000. He reported that he had ordered one hundred of the Prince George's County militia under Col. Joseph Belt and one hundred Baltimore County militia under Col. John Hall and Capt. Tobias Stansbury to be sent to Frederick County as rangers for the defence of the Conococheague settlements, and added that the Prince George's men were all volunteers, but that it was necessary to draft some of the Baltimore County men as they were unwilling to leave their homes because of fear for the safety of their own county. The Lower House thereupon resolved, September 8th, that £2400 be used towards completing Fort Frederick and maintaining the garrison; and on September 29th, that one hundred additional men be sent to garrison Fort Frederick, and on the 30th, that one hundred other rangers be enlisted to replace the two hundred Prince George's and Baltimore County men when their terms of enlistment should expire. On September 30th the House expressed its approval of the Governor's action in sending these rangers to the defence of the frontier and of his providing for them by victualing instead of "pressing" food for their use. But immediately following this resolution of thanks, the House on October 2d registered its disapproval of the action of the Governor in drawing upon the Agents of the Province for £630-2-8 to pay the expenses of the rangers without specific authority from the Assembly to do so, and an acrimonious dispute between Sharpe and the Lower House followed. The House demanded that the Governor personally reimburse the Agents for this amount, and that it would then appropriate sufficient money to repay him the amount he had expended as it had promised to do. The Governor in a hot reply refused to do so, and intimated that from the recent actions of the House and the vague statement that it would consider some method of repaying him, it had given him reason to be suspicious of its "engagement," and that as he had need of the money for recruiting the Royal American Regiment he was justified in thus drawing upon the Agents. By the close vote of 18 to 17 the House struck out of the draft