

GENERAL BRADDOCK'S AND GOVERNOR MORRIS' LETTERS, 1775

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., February 28, 1755.

SIR: – Your answer to Sir John St. Clair's first letter, is just arrived. I waited for the return of the messenger, or would have informed you sooner of my being at William's with his Majesty's commission to command all the forces in North America. I cannot help expressing the greatest surprise to find such pusillanimous and improper behavior in your assembly, and to hear of faction and opposition, when liberty and property are invaded, and an absolute refusal to supply either men, money or provisions, for their own defence, while they furnish the enemy with provisions, which his Majesty has been informed of, and has ordered all suspected vessels to be stopped and forfeited; but to provide more effectually against this unnatural proceeding, I think it very advisable to put an embargo upon all provisions, and I should be much obliged to you, if you would immediately issue such an order. It is astonishing to see one of the principal colonies preserving a neutrality when his Majesty's dominions are invaded – when the enemy is on the frontier; nay, when it is undetermined if the Fort of Duquesne is not in the Province of Pennsylvania. His Majesty, to drive the French from their encroachments, and out of the great regard to his subjects in these parts, has ordered two regiments and a train of artillery from England; no measures are taken to repair roads, to provide horses and carriages to transport the stores; not even subsistence for those troops, who are come to restore and preserve that property, which their factious councils have suffered to be invaded.

My commission empowers me to settle with the rioters as I shall think proper. You may assure your Assembly, I shall have regard to the different behavior of the several colonies, and shall regulate their quarters accordingly; and that I will repair by unpleasant methods, what, for the character and honor of the Assembly, I should be much happier to see cheerfully supplied.

I hope you will not impute any part of this letter as being addressed or directed to you. I am thoroughly satisfied of your good intentions, and the means you have used to obtain the necessary assistance; nor do I doubt your continuation of them. I must desire you to establish a post with good horses at convenient distances, between Philadelphia and Winchester, for the forwarding yours and receiving my dispatches, which may be of great importance during the operation of the campaign; and I desire you will inform me of the places appointed.

Governor Dinwiddie writ to you concerning flour; if you can prevail on your Assembly to raise any money, I should be glad you would provide a large quantity, and send it to Winchester.

I was desired, before I left England, to recommend it to the governors of the provinces to make one common fund for the supplies of the several colonies; that a treasurer should be appointed, with orders to answer any demands; as it is only proposed to expedite business, and as I declare myself quite disinterested, I shall be ready to give an account of the disbursements.

Enclosed are letters from Lord Halifax and Mr. Penn. I hope they contain such matter as may prevail on your Assembly to contribute handsomely to the present service.

I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant.

E. BRADDOCK.

WILLIAMSBURG, February 28, 1755.

SIR: – As the packet to Governor Shirley, which accompanies this, is of the utmost importance, to his Majesty's services, which, as well the welfare of the colonies may be greatly affected by the delay of it. I beg of you to forward it with all imaginable expedition, by a fresh express to Governor Shirley, and to use the same dispatch in forwarding his answer upon the return of the express to me.

I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant.

E. BRADDOCK.

P.S. – I beg you would not keep the express above an hour.

PHILADELPHIA, March 12, 1755.

SIR: – I was honored with yours of the 28th Feb. last, by express, who came here on the ninth instant at night; and I immediately, by fresh hand, sent forward the letters to the northern government, and wrote Mr. Delaney to do the same; and you may depend upon me sending Shirley's letters by express to you as soon as they come.

I heartily congratulate you and this continent on your appointment to the command of his Majesty's forces, and safe arrival among us: events that must give pleasure to all that have any regard for the honor or interests of Britain, or the safety of these colonies.

The conduct of the Assemblies upon the continent, almost without exception, has been so very absurd, that they have suffered the French to take possession of the most advantageous places, not only to answer the purposes of a very extensive Indiana trade, but to enable them to protect their own settlements and annoy ours; such are their forts at Niagara, Crown Point, and the several ones upon Lake Erie, the river Ohio and its branches. It is now about four years since the Indians first informed us of the designs of the French to take possession of the country upon the Ohio, and were very desirous that we should build them a strong house as, or near the place, where the French fort now stands; and Mr. Hamilton, then Governor of this Province, recommended the matter to the Assembly, but they refused to be at any expense about it, though a thousand pounds sterling would then have been sufficient; and having shamefully suffered the French to Encroach upon them, now more shamefully refuse to afford assistance to the troops that are employed to remove them.

I am heartily sorry that a province, that I have the honor to preside over, should behave in so shocking a manner; especially as it ought to be foremost on the present occasion; not only as it is the country involved, but on account of its riches and number of inhabitants.

I am, sir, almost ashamed to tell you, that we have in this province upwards of *three hundred thousand inhabitants*; that we are blessed with a rich soil and temperate climate, and besides our own consumption, raise provisions to supply an army of one hundred thousand men, which is yearly exported from this city, and with other commodities employs upwards of five hundred vessels, mostly owned by the merchants of this town. From a province so circumstanced, what might not have been reasonably expected; especially, as we are burthened with no taxes, and are not only out of debt, but have a revenue of seven thousand a year, and fifteen thousand pounds in bank, all at the disposal of the House of Assembly; and yet, when their all invaded, they refuse to contribute to the necessary defence of their country, either by establishing a militia, or furnishing men, money, or provisions! The manner in which I have labored in these points with my Assembly, you will see by my several messages to them, which I sent to Governor Dinwiddie, and which I beg leave to be referred to.

The trade that has been carried on from these colonies with the French at Cape Breton, has certainly enabled them to support an army on the back of us, which they could not otherwise have done, and it that supply be effectually cut off, it must destroy them in time; but, at present their magazines are so full that they will not feel it; for, I have been well informed, that in the month of May last, upwards of forty English vessels were seen in the harbor of Louisburg at one time; this trade was chiefly carried on from New York, Rhode Island, and Boston: the two last places, indeed, carry their flour for that purpose from hence, which was sent first to those places, but the people here were not otherwise concerned in that supply. However, agreeably to your request, I have made an order, that every vessel carrying provisions, or warlike stores, from hence, should give bond to land the same in some part of the king's dominions, or in the dominions of some prince or state in amity with his Majesty, other than the French King, a copy of which I send you herewith, and also to Commodore Kepple, to whom I also send a copy of the certificate of clearance, that I have ordered to be given to every vessel out of this port that shall give bond in pursuance to my order; and any vessel that does not produce such a certificate, may be justly suspected of intending to supply the French.

I had the pleasure of receiving an account of your arrival some day before your express came hither, and immediately summoned the Assembly of this province, who are to meet on Monday next, the seventeenth instant, when I shall press upon them the doing every thing that is proper upon the present occasion, in which I promise myself more success from your letter to me which I shall lay before them, than from anything I can say. I have ordered the country, from a place called *Carlisle, near the Susquehanna, westward* to the Turkey's Fort, to be reconnoitered by persons best acquainted with those parts, with whom I sent a draughtsman; and if it be possible to make a road that way, I will recommend it to the Assembly to enable me to do it.

Governor Shirley's son, who is the only recruiting officer here, has already raised above two hundred men for his father's regiment; in doing which, he has conducted himself with great prudence, and good sense; and this day I expect a nephew of mine, to whom Gov. Shirley has promised one of his vacant companies, upon his raising one hundred and fifty men; he has been about ten days returned from Boston, and I believe, has a considerable part of his number already, and will, very soon, in this province, with the aid I shall give him, not only complete the number he has engaged to raise, but will soon fill Shirley's regiment, though it should require a much greater number.

With this, I have the honor to send you a letter from Gov. Shirley to me, of the twenty-fifth ultimo, with a message from him to his Assembly, and their resolutions upon it, which, together, contain this plan he had laid for the operations of this summer.

The scheme is very extensive, and to execute it properly, in all its parts, will require a great number of men: more, I am afraid, than can be raised and properly equipped in time; though, I am told, the two thousand men from the eastern service are already raised, and I must do the New England governments the justice to say, that they are very active upon such occasions; and, if you should approve the plan, and resolve to build a fort near Crown Point, I make no doubt, they would do their part; but I do not think that the governments of New York, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania, can be prevailed upon to do theirs; the Assemblies of the two last, are under the influence of Quaker councils, from whom nothing good is to be expected; and as to New York, the Albany members, who have a great deal of influence in their Legislature, are concerned in a very pernicious, but profitable trade, that is carried on between Albany and Crown Point; and it is to be feared, that they would rather see the former in the hands of the French, that contribute to annoying the latter. By that trade, the French are furnished with the most material articles of their India trade, and are thereby enabled, fully, to supply them, which they could not otherwise do; and within a few months, great quantities of gun powder have been bought up in this town and New York, and am told, sent from Albany to Crown Point; there being only twelve miles land carriage between them, which you will see marked by a pricked line from the head of lake St. Sacrament to Hudson's river, upon a map I sent to Sir John St. Clair, by the last express.

I shall try what the Assembly will enable me to do, with respect to the post you mention, and write you upon the head, as soon as I can form any judgment of their resolutions.

It will give me the most sensible pleasure, to afford you any assistance in the execution of your important command, not only from my zeal for his Majesty's service, but from the personal regard I have for you, and hope, when the public service will permit, you will give me the opportunity of seeing you in a place that I shall be proud of rendering as agreeable to you as possible, and am

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ROBT. H. MORRIS.

WILLIAMSBURG, March 10, 1755.

SIR: – As it must be attributed, principally, to a want of a proper union among the colonies, that the French have had it in their power to make so great encroachments upon the King's territories in America, as they have lately done, it ought to be considered as a very strong instance of his Majesty's care and regard for them, that he has sent a considerable force from England to their assistance, in order to repair their losses, which their own misconduct has occasioned. As it is highly reasonable, he has declared that he expects the several colonies, in proportion to their respective abilities, should furnish the forces, with supplies of provisions and all necessaries, and likewise, raise such additional numbers of men, as shall be requisite for the purpose now intended; upon this occasion, the province of Pennsylvania, by far the most populous and most opulent of any upon the continent, as well as most nearly interested in the event of the expedition, instead of making the earliest and largest contribution, is endeavoring to take advantage of the common danger, in order to encroach upon his Majesty's prerogative, in the administration of his government; in what light such conduct must appear to his Majesty, may be easily conceived. As I am directed by him to advise and assist his several Governors upon the present occasion, I would propose to you sir, to call your Assembly together, and endeavor, once more, to bring them to a sense of their duty to his Majesty's and their own interest, by representing to them, in the strongest light, the consequences which must attend their neglect of it. With the assistance required of the colonies, I shall have good hopes of answering his Majesty's expectations from me, by securing his dominions, and their possessions of his subjects in these parts; with their assistance, it may be in my power, and in such case it may be worth their while, particularly the province under your government, to consider, whether it may not be presumed, that the government at home will take some method to oblige them to act for the future, as becomes the duty of his Majesty's subjects.

I must repeat to you, sir, what I have already mentioned in a former letter, that I am directed by his Majesty, to propose to the several colonies, to make one common stock of the money they shall severally raise, in order to serve as a provisional fund for the present service; such a measure would greatly promote our success; but if it should be objected to, I must at least desire, that what is raised, may not be particularly appropriated, but granted, in general terms, for the service of the expedition.

I doubt not, sir, you will continue to exert your utmost endeavors for the present service, particularly according to their deserts, all, if any such shall be found, who are guilty of carrying on a traitorous correspondence with the enemy by supplying them with provisions.

I shall only add, that as I am to give a faithful account to his Majesty's ministers of the behavior of each colony at this important junction, I am still in hopes that the province under your government, will put it in my power to represent them as becomes their ability, their interest, and their duty to his Majesty.

I am, sir, your most humble and most ob't. serv't.

E. BRADDOCK.

Prov. Rec. M. p. 545.

WILLIAMSBURG, March 10, 1755.

SIR: – The inclosed is circulated to be laid before your Assembly, if you think it may be of any service towards bringing 'em to a sense of their duty to his Majesty and their own interest upon the present occasion, for which purpose I would propose to you the calling 'em together once more as soon as possible.

I am sensible of the difficulties you must have in the management of so factious a people as those under your government, but am persuaded they are not sufficient to discourage you from continuing your most earnest endeavors for reclaiming 'em to a reasonable conduct at this important juncture.

I am, &c.,

E. BRADDOCK.

PHILADELPHIA, 25 March, 1755.

SIR: – An express this minute from New York, brought me Gov. Shirley's packet, which I now forward to Maryland to Gov. Sharpe, and only take time to tell you that I have your favors of the 10th inst. That are designed for the Assembly. I have laid before them, with a message strongly recommending it to them to exert themselves upon the present occasion, and pointing out the consequences of their refusal; but such is their temper on mind at present that I have no hopes of their acting reasonably; however, this day and to-morrow will fully inform me of what they will do.

I promise myself the pleasure of meeting you at Annapolis* with Governor Shirley, who I expect in about a week, when I shall have opportunity of laying more fully before you the conduct of the Assembly, and in the mean time, am,

Sir, your most humble and ob't. serv't.

ROBT. H. MORRIS.

FREDERIC, April 24, 1755.

SIR – I have found it necessary to contract to Pennsylvania for wagons and horses to attend me over the mountains, and have already discovered the very great inconvenience of not having a road from Philadelphia to Wills' creek, as the march of these wagons must for want of it be greatly delayed, and consequently cannot join me soon, or in so good condition as they otherwise might. It is likewise of such importance to have a free communication with your province, to facilitate the march of any assistance or convoys I may require from thence, that I don't see how I can with safety move from Fort Cumberland till the work is finished, or in great forwardness. I must, therefore, desire you to give your orders to have it immediately made, and if you cannot prevail on your Assembly to bear the expense of it, nevertheless to have it done, and must be obliged to charge it to the public account. I am satisfied you have so much regard for his majesty's service, and the safety of his colonies, that you will readily and speedily see this important work carried into execution,

I am, Sir, your most humble and most ob't. serv't.,

E. BRADDOCK.

* A council was held at the camp at Alexandria, Virginia, April 14, 1755 – present, his Excellency Edward Braddock, General and Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's forces in North America; Hon. Augustus Hepple, Esq., Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in North America; Hon. William Shirley, Hon. Robert Dinwiddie, Hon. James Delancy, Hon. Horatio Sharpe and Hon. Robert Hunter Morris. – *Prov. Rec. N. p. 9*, at Harrisburg, Pa. – I. D. R.

FORT CUMBERLAND, May 10, 1755.

SIR – I have found it absolutely necessary to send Mr. Leslie, Assistant Deputy Quarter-Master General, into your Government to purchase a large quantity of oats for the service of the forces, and must beg of your to give him such countenance and assistance towards providing them, as may be in your power. And as the Deputy Paymaster General is not yet arrived at the camp, I should be much obliged to you if you would advance to Mr. Leslie such a sum as he shall have occasion for, and I will repay it to you in the manner that you shall desire. I have given Mr. Leslie an assurance that the wagons shall be suffered to return home immediately after the delivery of the forage, which shall be punctually complied with.

I am, Sir, your most humble and most ob't. serv't.,

E. BRADDOCK.

FORT CUMBERLAND, May 10, 1755.

Sir: – I received your letter yesterday, acquainting me with your proceedings relating to the road to be made from Philadelphia to the forks of the Youghiogheny, to which I shall only say, that as I am convinced of your zeal for his Majesty's service, and the success of the present expedition, I make no doubt you have already, and will continue to use your utmost endeavors for carrying the necessary work into execution.

I have engaged between forty and fifty Indians from the frontiers of your province to go with me over the mountains, and shall take Croghan and Montour into service. In a few days the women and children which accompanied them hither, will return to your government; and must repeat my desire to you, that you would take particular care of them, of which, I have given them the strongest assurances.

I have signified to Mr. Shirley, my approbation of his taking Colonel Schuyler, and the 500 men raised in the Jerseys, under his command, and have acquainted Governor Belcher with my resolutions.

This will be delivered you by Mr. Franklin.* I have received great assistance from his father and himself; for which I think myself the more obliged to them, as I have hitherto met with very few instances of *ability or honesty* in the persons I have had to deal with, in the execution of his Majesty's service in America.

I am, Sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

E. BRADDOCK.

A letter came to the Governor from General Braddock, informing him that some persons suspected of supplying the French with provisions, and two of the inhabitants of Cumberland county were particularly named, against whom the Governor issued warrants in council, and wrote the following answer to General Braddock:

PHILADELPHIA, May 12, 1755.

SIR: – I am honored with your favors of the 24th of April and 4th instant, the former came to me at New York, when I was with Governor Shirley, and the letter I received yesterday by express.

I shall be heartily sorry, if the march of the troops should be retarded or the supply of provisions rendered more difficult for want of necessary roads, which it was the duty of this province to have opened in time; but as I have taken the greatest pains imaginable, ever since my arrival in their province, in October last, to prevail on the Assembly to grant the supplies necessary for carrying his Majesty's commands into execution, I cannot take any part of the blame to myself.

The first notice I had that such a road would be wanted was about the 24th of February, when I received a letter from Sir John St. Clair, dated 5th of that month, recommending it to me to open a communication from this town to the Forks of Youghiogheny, which I immediately sent to the speaker of the Assembly, who, with some other members had a power over £5,000 of the public money; but they would neither consent to open that road, or to enable me to do it, upon which I wrote Sir John, "that I was under very great difficulties, having no money at my command, and obliged for every article of expense, to apply to a set of men quite unacquainted with every kind of military service, and very unwilling to part with money upon any terms." I must observe to you, that the Assembly of the lower three counties upon the Delaware, which form a little government district, and independent of Pennsylvania, had lodged £1,000 in the hand of the speaker of their House, to be disposed of as he and I should agree, for his Majesty's service; and when he came to town, which was not till the first week in March, we agreed to defray the expenses of reconnoitering that country and surveying a proper road out of that money, but thought what was then left

*William Franklin. – I. D. R.

of it not sufficient to open and clear the same, the expense of which I agreed to recommend to the Assembly of this province to bear; and as soon after this as a commission and proper instructions could be prepared, I issued one on the 12th of March, to a number of men* acquainted with that country west of the

* These men were George Croghan, James Burd, John Armstrong, William Buchanan and Adam Hoops. They set out from Carlisle March 29, 1755, and reached the waters of Youghiogheny, April 11th. In their return home called at Fort Cumberland, when Sir John St. Clair abused them shamefully, as appears from the subjoined letter to Gov. Morris.

FORT CUMBERLAND, April 16, 1755.

HONORED SIR: – In pursuance of your commission, we set out on the road from Carlisle on the 29th March, and with the greatest industry reached the waters of Yohiogain on the 11th inst. We stopped at about eighteen miles on this side of the Three Forks, and would have proceeded farther, had we had not certain intelligence of great numbers of French and Indians hunting and scouting, &c. Our Indians all fled from us, some at Rays town, and some on the Allegheny hills, save one Delaware.

We were very fortunate in finding a good road all the way, and particularly through the Allegheny hills, considering how mountainous that country is. From *Parnal's Nob*, or McDowell's Mill, to where we stopped is about sixty-nine miles, and were it not for the interposition of mountains, would not be so far by ten or fifteen miles. The expense of making the road thirty feet wide, and the principal pitches twenty, will make the expense about eight hundred pounds.

Last Saturday evening we came to the camp, and were kindly received by the officers, but particularly by Captain Rutherford. We waited for Sir John's† coming to camp from the road towards Winchester, who cam this day at three o'clock, but treated us in a very disagreeable manner; he is extremely warm and angry at our province: he would not look at our draughts, nor suffer our representatives to be made to him in regard to the province, but stormed like a lion rampant. He said our commission to lay out the road should have issued in January last upon his first letter; that doing it now is doing nothing; that the troops must march on the first of May; that the want of this road and the provisions promised by Pennsylvania, has retarded the expedition, which may cost them their lives, because of the fresh number of the French, that are suddenly like to be poured into this country. That instead of marching to the Ohio, he would in nine days march his army into Cumberland county to cut roads, press horses, wagons, &c. That he would not suffer a soldier to handle an axe, but by fire and sword oblige the inhabitants to do it, and take every man that refused to the Ohio, as he had yesterday some of the Virginians. That he would kill all kind of catle, and carry away the horses, burn houses, &c.; and that if the French Defeated them by the delay of this province, that he would with his sword drawn pass through the provinces, and treat the inhabitants as a parcel of traitors to his master. That he would to-morrow write to England by a man-of-war, shake Mr. Penn's proprietaryship, and represent Pennsylvania as disaffected. That he would not stop to impress our Assembly; that his hands were not tied, as we should find. Ordering us to take these precautions and instantly publishing them to our Governor and Assembly, telling us he did not value any thing they did or resolved, seeing they were Dilatory, retarded the march of the troops, and hung an arse (as he phrased it) on this occasion; and told us to go to the general if we pleased, who would give us ten bad words for one that he had given.

At length he allowed us to speak, which we did in favor of the province, to the best of our powers. Capt. Rutherford and Col. Ennis assisted us, but all in vain; our delays were unpardonable; he would do our duty himself, and never trust to us, but we should dearly repent of it. To every sentence he solemnly swore, and desired we might believe him to be in earnest.

In these circumstances, sir, and especially as we have not yet run the camp road, we cannot send your honor a draught, but thought best forthwith to send you this express, that your honor might take the most speedy measures in regard of opening the road.

In the meantime, we have taken the liberty to write to the representatives of our country, to know whether the Assembly had made provision for opening the road, and if so, that they would immediately encourage people to set about it; and also to send the flour without delay to the mouth of Conegochege, as being the only thing or remedy left to prevent these threatened mischiefs. We acquainted Captain Rutherford of our design, who approved it much. We expect to be home in six days. Please, sir, to excuse the blunders of this letter wrote at one o'clock last night.

We remain, honored sir, your most obedient and humble servants.

(FOOTNOTE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

(FOOTNOTE CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

GEORGE CROGHAN.
JAMES BURD.
JOHN ARMSTRONG.
WM. BUCHANAN.
AD. HOOPS.

† John St. Clair, Deputy Quarter Master General.

settled parts of this province, to reconnitre the same, and to survey and lay out a road as nigh as they could to Ohio, and another to Fort Cumberland, and upon the meeting of the Assembly on the 18th of March, I strongly recommend it to make provision for that necessary service, but should not prevail with them to grant any money for that purpose, as I fully informed you when I was at Alexandria. But since my return, the same committee that refused it before, have with difficulty been prevailed on to advance some money for this service, and engaged to use their interest with the Assembly to pay the whole expense; whereupon, I sent orders to the commission who had made the survey, to open the roads with all possible dispatch, and they began the work on the first of this month, and nothing shall be wanting on my part to further this necessary service, which would not have remained thus long undone, if the Assembly had furnished money, or I had been sooner informed of your intention to defray the expense of it. I should not have been so particular as to this matter, had not Sir John St. Clair, taken the liberty to speak of my conduct in it, in a very improper manner to the persons I employed upon this service, which may lessen me in the eyes of those I am appointed to command, but cannot in the least contribute to his Majesty's service. Had he wrote me on the head, I should have been obliged to him; but as he took another method, I think it unbecoming me to take any other notice of it, than what I have done in answer to your letter, being satisfied that you want no proofs of my attachment to the crown, or zeal for his Majesty's service.

Upon your letter, I have issued warrants to apprehend the two *Irishmen* mentioned in Delap's information, and such as shall be found carrying provisions and warlike stores to the French; and if any of them are taken, I shall have them punished according to an act of this provision lately made for that purpose; but as the laws are slow in their motions, and legal proofs difficult to be obtained the transactions carried on in secret, and in the remote and unsettled part of this country, should your scouts take any that are concerned in that unnatural trade, or that utter treasonable words, I shall not be surprised to hear that you have proceeded to do them justice in a more summary way than I am able to do.

Agreeably to your requests, immediately upon my return from Alexandria, I sent the George Croghan,* the person entrusted with the management of the Indians in this province, to join you with as large a body of able bodied Indians as he could; copy of my letter to him upon that head, I send you herewith; but as I have had no answer to it, I send Mr. Peters, the Secretary of this Province, to further that affair, and to hasten the opening of the roads.

The letter herewith, from Governor Shirley, will inform you that the destination of the five hundred men raised in Jersey, is so far engaged as to admit of their being employed under him at Niagara, which is the more necessary, as Sir William Pepperill's regiment is not near full.

I am glad Mr. Franklin has had success in procuring a number of horses and dragons, and I shall endeavor to make my Assembly bear the charge of them, but cannot say I have any warm expectations upon that head. Mr. Franklin will be in town this evening, and I detain your messenger till he arrives, as he may have something to write to you of his transactions.

I am, sir, &c.,

ROBERT H. MORRIS.

PHILADELPHIA, 20th May, 1755.

SIR: – I had yours by Mr. Leslie on the 16th inst., and as my Assembly was then sitting and about to rise, I sent it to them to know if they would furnish the forage you wanted at the expense of the province, and by a private message they gave me to understand, that their committer would purchase and sent the forage required; but upon my writing to the committee, they returned me for answer, that they had no money in their hands, and could not assist as private citizens. Upon which I supplied Mr. Leslie with £500, and given Mr. Shippen, of Lancaster, where Leslie has contracted for part of the forage, an order to furnish him with any greater sum he may require, and to draw upon me for the same, which shall be punctually

*George Croghan wrote Gov. Morris from Fort Cumberland, May 20, 1755. – *Prov. Rec.* N. 37.

paid. Col. Hunter being here on his way to New York, desired me to recommend it to you to make as many payments by draught to this town, as you could, where he would lodge money subject to my call, or your order. This he imagined would save the money you have with you, and consequently the trouble of sending and escorting money to the camp.

Mr. Leslie is to purchase what oats, &c., he can in the back counties, and by letter to inform you what further quantity will be wanted, which I shall order to be brought here and sent to the camp; and upon his return, you will be kind enough to let me know if anything you may want for your own use, or for any army, and I will order it to be immediately supplied.

I am, &c.,

R. H. MORRIS.

FORT CUMBERLAND, May 24, 1755.

SIR – As I propose soon to begin my march for Fort Du Quesne, I am desirous of adjusting every future contingency with the several Governors in such a manner as to avoid and mistake or misunderstanding. If I take the fort in its present condition, I shall make what additions to it I judge necessary, and shall leave the guns, ammunition and stores belonging to the fort with a garrison of Virginia and Maryland forces. But in case, as I have some reason to apprehend, they should abandon and destroy the fortifications with the guns, &c., I will repair or construct some place of defence and leave a garrison as before. But as to the artillery, ammunition, stores, provisions, &c., they must be immediately supplied by the governments of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland, separately or conjunctively, for the train I take with me I shall find it absolutely necessary for the further execution of my plan; and these are determined to leave none of them in the fort.

And that I may not, by any delays in yours and the other governments, be detained so long for the arrival of your guns and convoy, as to frustrate any other designs for this year, I must beg that the artillery, ammunition, provisions, stores, &c., may be sent with all diligence to the fort; and a proper quantity of flour and meat should be preparing, as these, in every situation, must be require, and if care is not taken to send these convoys to them the men starve, and his Majesty's arms be dishonored, (should they prove successful.) and the expenses and trouble which his regard to his Colonies have engaged him in, rendered useless. A neglect of this kind must therefore consequently be highly disapproved by the King and his ministers.

Some Indians lately arrived from Fort Du Quesne, mentioned a bravado of the French and their Indians, (at best it appears to me as such,) that they propose, when the army is far advanced to fall upon this back country and to destroy its inhabitants. Make what use or give credit to this intelligence as you please. However it may not be amiss to take all possible precautions.

I am, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servt.

E. BRADDOCK.

DEAR MORRIS – You will by the bearer, Mr. Peters, be informed of the situation I am in by the folly of Mr. Dinwiddie and the roguery of his Assembly, and unless the road of communication from your province is opened, and some contract made in consequence of the power I have given, I must inevitably be starved. Sir John St. Clair, (who by the the by is ashamed of his having talked to you in the manner he did,) has employed, by the advice of Governor Sharpe, a fellow at CONNEGOGEE, one *Cressap*, who has behaved in such a manner in relation to the Pennsylvania flour, that if I had been a French Commissary he could not have acted more for their interest – in short, in every instance, but in my contract for the Pennsylvania wagons, I have been deceived, and met with nothing but *lies and villainy*. I hope, however, in spite of this that we shall pass a merry Christmas together! (?)

E. B.

PHILADELPHIA, June 3d, 1755.

SIR: – Mr. Peters brought me your proposals for a contract for three months provisions for the army under your command, upon which we immediately consulted some men best acquainted with the trade and circumstances of this country, and I am well assured the quantity of provisions may be furnished in time to answer your demand.

Mr. Turner, a gentleman of note in this province, has undertaken to purchase the provisions necessary upon this occasion, and has already, at my request, brought one hundred head of cattle, and twelve barrels of pork, twenty barrels of rice, and two hundred bushels of peas; and he is endeavoring to get two hundred and forty barrels of pork more; the rest of the meat will be supplies in beeves, which may be had very good

in this and the neighboring province of New Jersey. All the pork mentioned above is of the very best kind, well cured and packed, and may be depended on for keeping.

I send a man into the counties of York, Lancaster, and Cumberland, to purchase up twelve hundred barrels of flour, and to hire or build proper storehouses at Shippensburg, or McDowell's Mills, for the reception of that and other species of provisions that will be sent from hence, who is to remain at the place and take particular account of all the provision he receives and sends away – and he is to provide good pasture for three hundred head of cattle, so that what are sent up and remain in his care may be kept fat and fit for use, and you may have them drove to the army from time to time in such numbers as you shall judge best.

Mr. Peters, who, in his way from the camp through Cumberland county, judges that a place called McDowell's Mills, situated upon the new road about twenty miles westward of Shippensburg, is much more convenient for the magazine than Shippensburg, which, if you approve of, you will let your Secretary notify your approbation by the return of this express, to Charles Swaine at Shippensburg, who, by my instructions, is to wait that approbation before he begins to build or hire storehouses; and in the meantime he is to employ himself in procuring pastures and purchasing the flour.

I observe that in your proposals you mention bread, and if you have conveniences for baking in the camp, it may answer the purpose as well; but if not, and bread is not absolutely necessary, I will order the whole or any part of the flour to be baked at the magazine, and will send bakers up for that purpose, but that will be attended with additional expense.

The hay and corn (wheat and rye,) harvested in this country begins this month, which will render it very difficult, to have the whole quantity of provisions laid in by the beginning of July; but notwithstanding that, I venture to promise that a great part, at least one-third, shall be ready by the first week in July, and the remainder by the first week in August. This you may depend on and govern yourself accordingly.

The expense of this supply cannot be reduced to any exact certainty, till the several things are bought and delivered at the magazine; but enclosed I send you an estimate of the expense, which you see amounts to between six and seven thousand pounds, or about £4,000 sterling, which you must be sensible, is more than a plantation Governor, lately returned from Europe and upon bad terms with his Assembly, can easily furnish. I must, therefore, desire you will send me bills for that sum, and every thing shall be managed to the best advantage, and the public served at as cheap a rate as any private merchant in this town.

I have enclosed a copy of instructions I have given to Charles Swaine, for the government of himself in the management of the affair I have instructed him with, to which I shall ass such others as may be from time to time necessary.

I am told that a great part of the flour, sent by the committee of the Assembly to the mouth of Conegochege, is put into casks mad of green timber, which will inevitably turn it sour. I mention this to you that you may have it surveyed as it arrives at the camp; and if not quite spoiled, it may be saved by putting it into bags, or other casks.

I am, Sir, &c.,

ROBERT H. MORRIS.

FORT CUMBERLAND, June 9th, 1755.

SIR: – I have, this morning, received a letter from Governor Glen, inclosing bills upon England, payable to myself, for £4,000 sterling. As you have been so good as to advance money for purchasing forage, and have undertaken to make contracts for provisions, for the supply of the forces, I send the bills to you, to be sold at the best price you can get for them, that you may reimburse yourself what you are in advance, and may leave a fund in your hands for further contracts. When I have the pleasure of seeing you, I shall call upon you, to settle accounts with me and others.

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

E. BRADDOCK.

P. S. If you should have it in your power to employ some of the money in raising recruits for me, I should be obliged to you; and desire you would sent them after me, as soon as the road from your province is opened. I want them to complete the English regiment. You may allow the £3 sterling per man. Arms and clothes will be ready for them; and if you have any body you can confide in to bring them up, he shall be well rewarded for his service.

I beg you would send me advice by the return of the express, of your receipt of the bills.

E. B.

CAMP, FIVE MILES FROM FORT CUMBERLAND, June 11, 1755.

SIR: – I received your two letters, by express, last night, and am greatly obliged to you and Mr. Peters, for the steps you have take towards laying in a magazine of provisions for me; as also for the supply you are collecting of forage.

I shall signify to Mr. Swaine, by return of your messenger, my approbation of the deposites being made as M'Dowell's mill, instead of Shippensburg. I dispatched an express to you yesterday, with bills upon England, £4,000 sterling, sent me by Governor Glen: and upon notice to you, I will sent the draughts, from the deputy paymaster, upon Mr. Franklin, for such further sums as you may have occasion for.

I have ordered a party of an hundred men, as a guard, to the people working upon the new road, which will set out this day.

I am much obliged to yourself and your little government, for the present of oxen they have made me, and am,

Sir, your most obedient and humble servant,
E. BRADDOCK.

PHILADELPHIA, June 12, 1755.

SIR: – Governor Delancey, by express, sent me the letter that accompanies this; and also a letter from Capt. Bradstreet, giving an account of the passing of some French troops to Oswego, with some cannon. I send you a copy of this letter under this cover, as it is uncertain whether the express which he mentions to have sent through the woods, will get safe to you in time. From this, and other pieces of intelligence sent you, the French seem to be mustering to oppose you; but whether they will exert their strength on the Ohio or Niagara, I can't take upon me to say, but am rather inclined to think they will choose the latter, as they can, with more ease, draw their forces together and supply them there, that at Fort Du Quesne, and your march through as uninhabited country, will be much longer than the other, and consequently, more liable to be interrupted and harassed by the Indians and wood-fighters, and your communications with the country behind you, rendered more difficult.

Upon this intelligence, I shall press my Assembly to enable me to escort provisions and other necessaries to you, from time to time, that you may not be under a necessity of dividing or lessening your force; but I have little reason to expect any thing from them.

On this 13th inst. My Assembly met, agreeable to my summons, and I sent them a message, strongly recommending it to them, to enable me to supply the cannon and stores you had demanded, and to regulate the hire of wagons, horses and men, and the price of provisions, that private men might not be at liberty to distress public measures, as you will see by a copy of the message under this cover, but I have no hopes of their doing any thing to the purpose.

I am, sir, &c.,
ROBT. H. MORRIS.

PHILADELPHIA, June 16, 1755.

SIR: – Your express just brought me your favor of the 9th inst., with Carolina bills of exchange to the amount of £4,000 sterling, which are drawn in such large sums that they will not readily sell, wherefore, I have directed the merchant I employ to send them immediately to England, and draw his own bills to the amount in such sums as may suit the traders here, which he will do at the highest exchange; but bills are so plenty here and at New York, by means of Shirley's and Pepperell's regiments, the Northern expedition and Col. Hunter's draughts, that I am fearful exchange will soon fall. Before you receive this, you will be informed of what I have done with regard to the forage and provisions, which I flatter myself will meet with your approbation. I have done my utmost, and make no doubt I shall have every thing you want in great readiness before you will have occasion for it; my only doubt is about escorts, but I shall try to work upon my Assembly to keep some men in pay for that purpose, for the reasons I have mentioned to you in another letter of this day. As soon as the Assembly is adjourned, and the London ship just going is departed, I shall go into the back counties to settle all matters about the magazine; and you may rest assured, that every thing that is possible shall be done in the best and cheapest manner.

My intelligence from the roads is, that they have got as far as Raystown, and I hope that will soon join you. If some log store houses were built nigh the falls of Ohiogany, or at some other more convenient place upon that new road, flour and other provisions might be sent thither from the magazine near Shippensburg; and you might with greater ease be supplied when you get to the Ohio; but of that you are the best judge.

The getting recruits here is become somewhat difficult, and Shirley's and Pepperell's officers have taken great numbers from here. However, I will try what can be done, and if I had some arms, the recruits might serve as escorts from time to time.

The women you have discharged shall be taken care of as soon as they arrive, if I can prevail on my Assembly to contribute anything to it.

I am, sir, &c.,
ROBT. H. MORRIS.

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BEAR CAMP, June 21, 1755.

SIR: – I have this day received your two letters of June 12 and 16, and am much obliged to you for the trouble you have had, as well with regard to the magazine of provisions, as the forage you have procured for me. I have a firm dependence upon your care and regard for the service you have undertaken that shall meet with no disappointments, and that everything will be conducted in the best manner.

I shall order the Deputy Pay Master to send Mr. Franklin a draught by this opportunity upon Col. Hunter, for £1,000 sterling, on account of the purchase of forage. You will please to let me know what further demands there may be on the account. When I am further advanced, I shall be able to judge better of the expediency of forming a second magazine upon the new road.

The party I have sent for the protection of your people working upon that road, will, I hope, be sufficient security for them against all panics.

I am obliged to you for the enclosed from Captain Brodstreet. Herewith I send you some letters which are to go to the northward; and you will be so good as to forward them in the best manner.

I am, sir, &c.,

E. BRADDOCK.

P.S. – As it is perfectly understood here in what part the road making in your province is to communicate with, through which I am now proceeding to Fort Duquesne; I must beg that you and Mr. Peters, would immediately settle it, and send an express on purpose after me with the most exact description of it, that there may be no mistake in a matter of so much importance.

FROM THE CAMP AT THE LAST CROSSING OF THE YOUGHIOGHENY, June 30, 1755.

SIR: – I shall be very soon in want of supplies from your province, I must beg you would order all possible dispatch to be made use of in furnishing the new road as far as Crow Foot of the Youghiogheny, and immediately afterwards send forward to me such articles of provision as shall be in your power. Some of the inhabitants near Fort Cumberland having been killed, and taken prisoners by straggling parties of Indians, the people in these parts have been deterred from coming to the camp. My chief dependence must therefore be upon your province, when the road will be secure from insults or attacks of that kind; and lest it should not be in my power to send a sufficient number of wagons or horses, to bring up from the magazine at McDowell's mill* the provisions I may have occasion for, I must desire you to direct Mr. Swaine, or some proper person, to have in view such a number of them as may answer that purpose, which shall be conducted to the camp under a proper escort; but I would not have any contract or positive engagement made till further orders, as I am in hopes this measure may not be necessary, and expense consequently avoided.

I hope soon to have an express from you, with an exact account of the palce fixed upon for communication between the two roads,

And am, sir, your most humble and most ob't serv't,

E. BRADDOCK

PHILADELPHIA, July 6, 1755.

Sir: – The packet I have the honor to transmit to you, by this conveyance, will inform you of the success of our part of his Majesty's forces under your command, and of the treatment that part of their fleet have received from Admiral Boscawen, who, with Admiral Moslym, commanded thirteen sail of the line, now cruising between St. Lawrence Bay and Cape Table. It is said that the French fleet consists of twenty-four ships, and the English of thirty, but I cannot think these accounts are to be depended on; but as our fleet has fallen in with theirs, I am in hopes we shall have as good account of the whole as we have of the

* Franklin county, a few miles from London, Pa.

two that are mentioned in the letters herewith.

I make no doubt Colonel Innis has informed you that some Indians have been murdering some of the inhabitants near Fort Cumberland, and given you the particulars, which I have not yet received. This has struck a panic into the people of the back parts of our country, and I expect it will be difficult to prevail with them to go with provisions to the rear cutters without an escort, which I have it not in my power to furnish, not being enabled by my Assembly.

Mr. Franklin tells me that the £1,000 you have sent him, will be sufficient to pay for the forage brought to my order in this town, and for transporting it to the camp. He thinks, too, that it will be sufficient to pay for the thousand bushels of wheat, that you have ordered him to buy, of all which, he tells me, he will give me an account. That there will be wanting about £500 sterling more to pay for the forage that was bought and sent from the back counties. I have 330 bushels of Indian corn remaining in this town, which I can sell again for what it cost; but do not intend to do it till I hear from you, which I expect to do by the return of the express, when I shall be at Shippensburg; and beg you would direct me whether and, and what forage must be laid in at Shippensburg, that I may give the necessary orders, when I am in that county.

The panic that has taken possession of the people near the mountains, since the Indians have begun to scalp, will make it next to impossible to carry the magazine further back than Shippensburg. However, I shall judge better of that when I am upon the spot, and fix it either at McDowell's mill, at Shippensburg, or at some place between them, as I shall think will best answer the public purpose.

This express will bring you letters from Colonel Johnson, that will let you into the progress he is making among the Indians, and in which I suppose he mentions the state of things in that quarter, of which I had no account for some time, further, than all our troops are in motion. The cutting off of this re-inforcement of six battalions, will put it out of the power of the French to hinder the execution of any part of your plan; and if a war should be the consequence of our success in America, and the colonies can be prevailed upon to keep up the troops they have at present, Canada itself may find you employment for next summer.

I am, sir, &c.,

ROBERT H. MORRIS.

CARLISLE, July 14, 1755.

SIR: – I have this minute the favor of yours of the 30th of last month, from the last crossing of the Youghiogheny, upon which I congratulate you, and I hope this will find you in possession of Fort Duquesne. The opening of this road has been somewhat interrupted by some Indians, who have killed some of the wagoners, and people employed in carrying them provisions, which has generally alarmed this part of the province. And Mr. Burd writes me from the Allegheny mountain, that thirty of his men had left him for want of arms. As soon as possible after the people that escaped the Indians arrived, a number of cattle were procured, and with a proper quantity of flour, who, I imagine, will meet the thirty now on their way home, and carry them back to their work. As soon as I am informed that the new road is nigh joining your route, which, as I have written, I imagine will be about the Great Crossing, I shall send forward a parcel of oxen, some pork, and some flour; as much of the two last articles as I can procure wagons to carry; and propose staying in this part of the province (where I came to forward and secure the magazine) till that be done. The letter herewith I wrote at Philadelphia, but the bearer has been detained a long time on the road, on account of the murders committed by the Indians, and his hopes of an escort from me; but for want of militia, it is not in my power; so he goes round by Winchester, and may be some time before he reaches you with the good news he is charged with.

I am your Excellency's most ob't and most humble serv't,

ROBERT H. MORRIS.