

stay in Virginia at the Camp before I would have drawn such an Expence on the Province or such a Trouble on myself; I was abroad when they came, but as soon as I came home I put a Stop to any Spirits being brought amongst them, nor do I even keep one Drop in my own House.

"I here enclose the Copy of a Letter from Captain Stobo mentioned in his last Letter, with a Plan of the Fort, which I received two days ago by an Indian named Moses. I received a Letter from Col. Innes yesterday who makes his Compliments to your Honour; he informs me that there will be one of the Council from Virginia for certain up here to confer with the Indians soon, who I hope will bear some of the Expence, for I assure your Honour the Expence will be great; there is such a Number of Women and Children and more coming; they have already almost destroyed thirty acres of Indian Corn for me, exclusive of the other Provisions, which are very dear and hard to be got, as the Country takes all Opportunities to extort an extravagant Price for what they have to sell; but if those Indians be to be maintained here, I would be glad the Government would send some Person to purchase the Provisions for them who I would assist as much as in my power, by which means the Government might be full satisfied of the Prices of Provisions and the Quantity that would serve, as well as the Trouble of taking Care of so many of different Tribes.

"Sir, I shall do every thing in my Power to assist Mr. Weiser pursuant to your Honour's Commands.

"I am Your Honour's most humble and most obedient Servant,

"GEO. CROGHAN.

"AUCQUICK, OLD TOWN.

"P. S.—Sir, the Indians insist on the Promises made them last Fall by the Government of Virginia and this Government, that is to Supply their Wives and Children with Provisions as they are drove out of their own Country."

A Letter from Captain Stobo, 28th July, 1754.

"Sir:

"The Indians are greatly alarmed at a Report said to be brought up by an Indian named Tuscarrora John. He reports that the Half King Monecatoota, and a Shawanese King, &c. to the number of 37, were confined by the English and carried as Prisoners; that John Meinor alias Jack Cork, of Montour's Company, told him so soon as they got them to the Inhabitants they would hang them all and advised him to make his Escape. This was industriously reported the Day before the Shawonese counselled with the French and their Indians. The French made them a very long

VOL. VI.—11.

and elegant Speech, telling them they did not come to make War with any, but the English would not let them alone; that they expected their Children would not see their Father abused in his old age, but if that they had a mind to join the English they might; if not, and to live in Peace with all, there were Goods for them. This was all I could pick up. The French gave Two very large Belts of Wampum and as many Strings; their Indians gave an equal Number. The French gave them likewise a large Present, viz^t 16 very fine Guns, 2 Barr^{ls} Gunpowder and Bullets in Proportion, 16 fine suits of Cloathes, several of a meaner kind, Blankets, Strowds, &^{ca}. The Shawanese made no Answer at that time, or have I heard they have as yet. 'Tis now reported for certain that the Half King, &c., are killed and their Wives and Children given up to the Barbarity of the Cherokees and Cawtabas, of whom they say there are 300 at the New Store; true or false it has greatly alarmed them, and had it not been for that report I believe a great many Indians of several Nations would have been with You. Now, if true (which I cannot think), there will be no further dependance on any Indians this way and will make our Return very hazardous, but that's not to be considered. The Shawanese, Picts, and Delawares, have had a grand Council by themselves; what they have determined I know not, but I have persuaded some of them to venture to see you. By assuring them they will be used in the best manner and that there is large Presents for the Indians at the New Store, a Present well-timed now will be of great Service. If Peace be made with their Indians, Catawbas, and Cherokees, I hope all will go well. I assure You there was not any of those Indians We call our's at the Battle, except Six or Seven I believe of the Mingoe Nation, Fellows not regarded by them, particularly one English John, he was at Guests with those that were suspected as Spies; I'm informed he intends to see You with some of the rest, take care of them; I send this by Monecatootha's Brother-in-Law, a worthy Fellow, and may be trusted. On the other side You have a Draught of the Fort such as Time and opportunity would admit of at this time, its Garrison consists of 200 Men; Workman and all the Rest went in several detachments to the Number of 1,000, two days hence Mericue (a fine Soldier) goes, so that only Contrecoeur with a few young Officers and Cades remain here; a Lieutenant went off some days ago with 200 Men for Provisions, he's daily expected, when he arrives the Garrison will then be 400. La Force is greatly wanted here, no scouting now, he certainly must have been an extraordinary Man amongst them, he is so much regretted and wished for; when We engaged to serve the Country it was expected We were to do it with our Lives, let them not be disappointed, consider the Good of the Expedition without the least Regard to Us; for my part I wou'd die ten thousand Deaths to have the Pleasure of possessing this Fort but one day, they are so vain of their Success at the Meadows, 'tis worse than Death to hear them; strike this Fall, as soon as possible make the Indians ours, prevent Intelligence, get the best, and 'tis done; one hundred trusty Indians

might surprize this Fort, they have Access all day and might lodge themselves so that they might secure the Guard with their Tom-hawks, shut the Sally Gate, and the Fort is ours; none but the Guard and Contrecoeur stays in the Fort. For God's Sake communicate this but to few, and them you can trust. Intelligence comes here unaccountably, if they should know I wrote I should at least lose the little Liberty I have. I should be glad to hear from You, but take no Notice of this in your's. Excuse Errors, bad Diction, &^{ca} and believe me to be Your

“ROBT. STOBO.

“Pray be kind to this Indian; Shingas and Delaware George have been here.”

DRAUGHT OF THE FORT.

The Governor received the following Letter from Governor Dinwiddie, which was read and ordered to be entered :

“VIRGINIA, Williamsburg, September.

“Sir :

“Your kind Favour of the twelfth ult^o I received, and shou'd have answered it before this, but waited the Result of our Assembly in regard to granting Supplies. They met the 22d of last month, and I thought with great Inclination to grant a handsome Sum, they all appearing sensible of the great Danger all the Colonies were exposed to. On the 27th they voted £20,000, which was twice read in the House of Burgesses, the third Reading, which was the 28th, a contentious Spirit possessed some of them, and they proposed a Rider to the Bill, which was to pay £2,500 to Payton Randolph, Esquire, their Agent, sent home with a Complaint against me about the Pistole Affair. Our Treasurer, who is Speaker of the House of Burgesses, unconstitutionally paid this money by a Resolve of their House, which Resolve was last November rejected by the Council; however they tacked this to the Bill of Supply, and sent it up to the Council, and they unanimously rejected the same. They were on this obstinate, and declared they would pass no Bill of Supply without it. I used all the Argument in my Power to shew them the Impropriety of tacking a private Demand to a publick Bill of Supply to his Majesty; and further told them, that Transaction was out of our Hand, for that Resolution and the other extraordinary Resolves they made in the November Session was before the King and Council, and that they should not Notice it till the Resolution and Determination of the King and Council was known. They were obstinate and deaf to all Arguments, and declared without that Rider they would grant no Supply, so that I was obliged to prorogue them till the 17th of October next.