

land, to serve without Pay, until Places are vacant; to each of these Detachments, there is to be an Officer who is to have the Charge of the Provisions and Cash; and also to mark out the Camps which must be formed every Night, for want of Villages, much more necessary in this Country, as the Woods are very close and thick; by that Means, the Officer will be better enabled to have his Troops before him, to prevent any Surprise from the Indian Parties, which is always very much to be feared, notwithstanding all the Precautions that can be taken: For that Reason, and many others, which I could describe to you, I cannot express to you, how much Difficulty I fear in the Service I am entrusted with in *North-America*, if the Number of Officers be not augmented, in Proportion to that of the Troops. As the little Dependence upon this Country, obliges me to fetch Provisions from several Colonies, far distant one from the other, I have been obliged to nominate two Commissary-Assistants, for Victualling, to whom I have assigned *Four Shillings a Day*. I have also named, a Quarter-Master-General Assistant at the same Pay, because of the Necessity I am under, of employing *Sir John St. Clair*, at 300 Miles from me, occupied at present in making the Roads and Bridges, and providing Waggons, Horses, &c. for transporting the Ammunition, Provisions, and Artillery.

I have met with such Difficulties in getting Carriages, as would have been insurmountable, without the Zeal, and Activity of the Officers, and others, employed for that Purpose. The Want of Forage, is a Difficulty I see, without Remedy; to supply which, I shall be obliged to turn out the Horses to Grass upon the Mountains. I design to set out from here, for *Frederick*, To-morrow Morning, to take the Road for *Wills's-Creek*, where I should have been before, if I had not been stopped to wait for the Artillery, and am much afraid it will keep me here longer. I hope, by the Beginning of *May*, to be upon the Mountains, and some Time in *June*, to be able to dispatch an Express, which will acquaint you with

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