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Grog Town April 14th 1778.—

Dear General

Last evening I was informed that China Clow and others had collected a large body of tories & had raised a fort as a place of cover for to collect at. I should have wrote you immediately, but doubted its being truth. But to be better satisfied, I collected as many of the militia as I could last night — about forty of which I set out early this morning — I am well satisfied the report is not without foundation; — for by the help of a guide we took near them, I was piloted within gun shot of their works and I believe unexpected to them — On our approach they sallied out about 150 — a smart fire began — I found they had fortified themselves very securely from musket shot — ordered our party to retire, which we did only having one man shot thro' the thigh — one of their party was seen to fall, supposed killed by some of our people who had creeped within 50 or 60 yards of them — From the several acc.ts judge they may have upwards of 200 men — They have pilfered the inhabitants of their arms & provisions & taken several prisoners — likewise collected a number of cattle &c — as they are making head fast, think the destroying this fort will be of great consequence to us — To compleat which, would recommend your sending a light field piece & about 40 or 50 good men with ammunition, with which I could promise success — but without the field piece, think we shall not be able to compleat it. —

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

By good authority I am informed that Gordon went on board a vessel at Liftons woods last thursday, as a gentleman saw one of his negroes leading his horse from that place — I am d.r Gen.l yours. Due Resp.t

Chas Pope —

(Copy)

General Smallwood —