

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

10th of May. 1756S^r

The alarming Accounts that we have lately received from the Frontiers of Virg^a & which by your Letter dated the 29th of April are confirmed give me great concern but I hope the Steps you have taken will in some sort put a Stop to such Incursions tho that can never be effectually done till a sufficient Body of Troops can be formed to march & annoy the Enemy in their own Country & when that will be I know not unless Troops are sent from Europe to these Colonies for I hear the Pensilvanians have not come to any Resolution to grant farther Supplies nor do they seem much disposed to raise any Men to be marched out of that province. Our Assembly is still sitting, some Gentⁿ from each House have been more than a week conferring on the Subject Matter of a Supply Bill, I beleive there will be one passed but by what I can find t'will be framed in such a manner as to contribute little to the Safety of the Province or promote His Majesty's Service. A Fort it seems is to be built on the North Mountain about 10 Miles above the Mouth of Conegochiegh, & 200 Men are to be raised to garrison it & patroll or range on our Frontiers; in Case Troops were to be raised by yours & the neighboring Colonies to act in Conjunction & together form a sufficient Body of Men to act offensively or carry on an Expedition to the Westward I am to have Liberty to raise more Men in Maryland & to expend £25,000 on such Expedition. By what I can learn your Regiment does not yet amount to 500, which I am afraid are not found more than enough to garrison Fort Cumberland & keep open the Communication between that place & the Inhabitants; if you are of a different Opinion or should your Assembly enable you to compleat the Regiment or support any considerable Number of Troops I shall be much obliged to you for informing me by Express what Number you can engage to furnish for an Expedition that I might give Directions accordingly, for as I have already hinted I cannot tho our Bill should pass proceed to raise more than 200 Men before I have received assurances that they will be joined by a certain & proportionable Number from Virg^a & one or more of the Neighbouring provinces. I have not heard that much Mischief has been lately done on our Frontiers but if there had I am convinced by Experience that t'would be impossible for me to get the Militia to move & oppose the Enemy. At present Capt Dagworthy's Company & two or three Parties of Rangers are posted at & about Conegochiegh to keep the Inhabitants a little easy & together till the Assembly come to some Con-