

War has Orders to wait for my Dispatches, I think he will not sail, till the return of the Express, that if you incline to write to England, I shall take due Care to forward them, & I am with very great respect

Y^r Excell^y's
Most Obed^t hble Serv^t
Rob^t Dinwiddie.

Gov^r Sharpe.

[Dinwiddie to Sharpe.]

Williamsburg Virg^a Nov^r 24th 1753—

S^r

Original. Having an Express with some Letters from Gov^r Hamilton of Pennsylvania, I cou'd not let him return without paying my Compliments to You, & to desire you'll excuse my not not answering your last Letter, which was occasion'd by great Hurry in our Assembly's meeting. I receiv'd a Letter from the Earl of Holderness which occasion'd my sending a Person of distinction to the Comānder of the French Forces on the Ohio River; I desir'd to know his reasons for his Invading His Majesty of Great Britain's Dominions while a solid Peace subsisted between us & France, & by what Authority he acted in so unwarrantable Manner; & I desir'd he wou'd desist & retire; Otherways I must follow the Orders & Directions of the King my Master, by oblidging him by Force.—The Messenger has been gone three Weeks when he returns, I shall acquaint you of his reception & the Answer to my Letter; In case of his refusal, which I expect will be, I shall depend on the Assistance of the neighbouring Colonies to defeat their Designs.

Next May I have desir'd a Meeting of the Northern & Southern Indians, in the British Interest, at Winchester; when I shall endeavour to make up some small Breaches subsisting between them & endeavour to make Peace among themselves; afterwards endeavour to have a firm Alliance concluded between the several different Nations of Indians, with the Crown of Great Britain, & the Subjects settled on this Continent.

I shall be very proud of your Advice & Assistance in an Affair that I think, will be of great Service to Britain, to the Trade of these Colonies, & strengthening Our Western Frontiers. I presume the Letter I sent you by the Express was from the Secretary of State, for a mutual Supply, I shall be glad to know the Inclination of your People on this Occasion.

I have laid His Majesty's Orders before our House of Burgeses, but I fear they will not grant what I desire, unless the Messenger I sent to the French returns before the House