

Letter Bk. II.  
p. 19

[Sharpe to Sir Thomas Robinson.]

Nov<sup>r</sup> 5 [1754] Annapolis

Right Honourable

I took the Liberty the 25<sup>th</sup> of last Month from Virginia to make my most grateful Acknowledgments for the Receipt of his Majestys most gracious Commission together with a Letter which yourself had been pleased to honour me with by Governor Dobbs who had but a few Days before arrived. lest any Accident should occasion the Loss of the Letter that I then begged leave to address to you I seize this Opportunity of repeating the Contents of it & of intreating you if you think proper to assure his Majesty that I am extremely sensible of the honour that he has been pleased to confer on me that it shall be the Business of my Life to manifest my Duty to his Majesty & my constant Study & endeavours to pay the most exact & punctual Obedience to his Royal Pleasure which you have now been pleased to acquaint me with & to whatever future Commands & Instructions I may have the honour & Satisfaction to receive. On Governor Denwiddie's intimating to me his Receival of His Majestys Orders to himself & me I immediately set out for that place to take his Advice how I may best execute the Commission I found myself honoured with & to consult with him what measures it would be most expedient to take for the Defence of his Majesty's Dominions on the Continent at this time & with the small Force that we shall be able to collect this winter or early in the ensuing Spring. In pursuance of his & Governor Dobbs's Advice & Approbation I propose to raise Seven Hundred Men with all possible Expedition who will I hope (if a very severe Season does not  
p. 20 soon set in) be able in Conjunction with the three Independant Companies to carry the Fort that the French have built upon the River Monongahela before a Reinforcement can be sent the Garrison from Canada or the French Settlements in that part of the Continent which they call Louisiana. This & erecting a Fortress (which we conceive absolutely neccsary for its Defence on an Island in the River Ohio opposite to the said French Fort is as much as I can hope to execute with so small a number of Men as will I apprehend compleat the Corps that will be under my Direction, most of whom will be required in Case our Enterprize should succeed to garrison the two Forts abovementioned & one that is begun at a Place called Wills-Creek on Potomack River by way of a general Magazine for the Troops that may be employed in the Service. I have just received Advice from Governor Morris that about 60 French Indians were seen very lately on their way toward the Fort on Ohio & that 200 more were about to follow them to be