

employed against our back Settlements this Winter if we do Letter Bk. II.  
not deprive them of that Asylum where they propose to resort  
& ravage the Country at Intervals with impunity.—As soon as  
I can make some necessary Preparations for my Journey which  
shall not retard me more than a week I intend to set out for  
Wills-Creek, in the Interim I will write to all the neighbouring  
Colonies & sollicite their Assistance & if they should fortunately  
be disposed to encrease considerably our American Forces in  
the Spring I will with the greatest Alacrity & Diligence prose-  
cute His Majesty's Service & endeavour to gain that Fort also p. 21  
which the Enemy have built on Buffaloe River. But notwith-  
standing I should be succesful even in that Attempt, yet I  
cannot think that His Majestys Dominions on the Continent  
will be thereby effectually secured, or a free & open Trade  
with the Indian Natives ensured to us while the French are  
masters of so many Forts on the Lakes & have fortified so  
many Places in the inland Country behind us; but as nothing  
less than a considerable Body of European Troops can be  
expected to oblige them to relinquish these I shall confine my  
views & attend only the Business which I have at present in  
hand hoping that by the time I shall have another Opportunity  
of addressing myself home I shall be able to send a satisfactory  
Account of my Proceedings & Conduct. In my other Letter I  
took the Liberty to mention the Disputes that have arisen &  
still subsist between the Independant Companies & the Troops  
which the Colonies have raised on this Occasion, & I presumed  
to hope that what Gov<sup>r</sup> Dinwiddie had written relating thereto  
might be thought to deserve some notice & that you would be  
pleased by your Instructions to remove that Evil for the future,  
in the mean time it shall be my constant Care & Study to  
prevent any animosities among them & at all times to shew  
that I have a due Sense of the favours you have been pleased  
to confer on

Honble Sir

Your most devoted &c

[Sharpe to the Earl of Halifax.]

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Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> [1754]

My Lord

I do myself the honour to acknowledge to your Ldp my  
Receipt of His Majestys most gracious Commission appointing  
me Commander in Chief of the Forces that may be employed  
against His Majestys Enemies in this Part of His Dominions.  
As Governor Denwiddie has writ to acquaint your Ldp with  
the present Posture of Affairs in this part of the Continent I