

Letter Bk. II. their Fort on Buffaloe River of the Situation & strength of which I have in vain endeavoured to get a particular Description. I should be also glad to learn whether there is any Road yet opened from the Back-Settlements in Pensilvania to either of these Places & whether it would be impracticable to convey Provisions thither from your Province either in Summer or in the winter Season. I am &c.

[Sharpe to Governor Belcher.]

Nov. 8th [1754]

S^r

I take the Liberty to acquaint you that His Majesty hoping His good & loyal American Subjects will exert themselves unanimously to repel the Encroachments that the French are & have been making on his Dominions in this part of the Continent has been pleased to honour me with a Commission to command all the Forces that the several Colonies may raise for that purpose, & to intreat you to endeavour to procure us such Supplies either of Men or money from the Assembly of your Province as the Exigency of Affairs do at this time demand. It would be I am persuaded impertinent in me to insist on or even hint at the fatal Consequences that must attend our conniving at the Encroachments that the French have lately made on His Majestys Territories, or suffering them to remain Masters of the Forts which they have built on the Frontiers of these Provinces. of this you are extremely
 p. 27 sensible & I will not doubt but your Assembly when they meet again will shew a just Regard to your Recommendation of the Service to their Consideration. indeed without large Assistance from them & the neighbouring Colonies I despair of answering in the least His Majesty's Expectations & Royal Intention in honouring me with such a Commission & shall be under the disagreeable necessity of excusing my failure or Inaction to the want of such Succours as his Majesty by one of his principal Secretaries of State gives me room to expect from His good Subjects in that as well as these Provinces. Should the Gentlemen of your Assembly when they take the Affair under their Consideration shew a Disposition to support their fellow Subjects & provide for the Safety of His Majesty's Dominions in this part of the Continent & their own Country, you will be kind enough to send me immediate Advice thereof & acquaint me in what manner you judge they will be most inclined to afford us their Assistance whether by money or Troops that I might regulate my Conduct accordingly. You will be pleased to signify to me as soon as possible what is to be expected because the vast progress that the Enemy made last Summer