

makes it absolutely necessary that we act offensively very early in the Spring. I am just returned from Williamsburg where the Virginia Assembly were sitting, they had granted the Sum of £20000 for the Encouragement of the Service & I hope the Assembly of this Province will make an Addition to what they lately advanced as soon as I can meet them after a new Election,
I am &c—

Letter Bk. II.

[Sharpe to Governor De Lancey.]

p. 28

Nov. 8th [1754]S^r

I take the Liberty to acquaint you that His Majesty expecting his good & loyal American Subjects will unanimously exert themselves to repel the Encroachments that the French are making on these his Dominions has been pleased to order me to take the Command of the Forces that may be raised for that purpose. As I despair of answering in the least His Majesty's Expectations & Royal Intention in honouring me with such a Commission unless the several Governments will incline to send us such Succours as His Majesty by one of His principal Secretaries of State bids me expect I have addressed myself to them severally soliciting their aid & am not without hopes that the Gentlemen of your Assembly will be disposed to make an Addition to the sum they were pleased to grant some time since for this Service. I am not insensible how much the Frontiers of that Province are exposed to the Incursions & Depredations of the French & their Allied Indians & imagine that a considerable Expence will be incurred by making your Frontiers more secure & your Forts more defensible which I perceive you have already recommended to your Assembly, yet as the Enemy seem to be at present most intent on fixing & establishing themselves on the Back of these Provinces to secure to themselves a free Communication from Canada to New Orleans & at the same time effectually cut us off from all Intercourse & Trade with the Indian Nations I cannot but think our united Force should be directed to disconcert that grand Scheme, their Execution & Completion of which must be attended with respect to us with the most fatal Consequences. however as the Gentlemen of your Assembly may think that their own Country has demands enough on them I will not press you so earnestly to sollicite them on our Behalf as I have the other Governments, but will rest assured that what they can they will chearfully contribute to encourage the Expedition that I am entrusted with the Direction of, & if at any time while I am honoured with this Command I can thereby promote the Security of his Majestys Subjects in that part of his Dominions