

Letter Bk. I. I believe we must include a little of the Reserve in each of the Leases as they come to be renewed. I have also inclosed as I promised An Account of the Importations to this province in the 1753. which however is very defective & indeed cannot be otherwise, as the Quantity & Quality of the European Goods imported is & must be unknown so that no Estimate can be made of their Value which it must however be concluded is exceedingly great as otherwise we cannot conceive what becomes of our money while it appears by Exchange with England being rather above par that we are not increasing our Riches. The Consumption of Rum you will think I doubt not very extravagant & indeed I wish some method could be fallen on to prevent it which must be by an Excise Law otherwise the pensilvanians would clandestinely bring in greater Quantities than at present tho I believe they already make a vast Addition to the Quantity that I have in the Estimate noticed as legally imported. I am &c.

Letter Bk. II.  
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[Sharpe to Sir Thos. Robinson.]

Annapolis January 12. 1755.

Right Honourable

In Obedience to His Majesty's pleasure which you had done me the honour to signify to me, very soon after my Return from Virginia I proceeded to the place called Wills Creek where Governor Dinwiddie had ordered the three Independant Companies with that of Maryland to Encamp. at my Arrival there I learnt that the French on the Ohio had been Reinforced by some Regular Troops from Canada & by a considerable number of the Arundack, Ottoway & Canuaga Indians which Tribes are & have been many years attached to & entirely devoted to the French Interest. The Confirmation of this Intelligence & Account, the Inconsiderable Number of the Troops that we had at that time been able to Levy & the surprizing Backwardness of the people to enter into the Service soon convinced me of the Vanity of the hopes I had entertained of being enabled to attempt something successfully this winter, wherefore I tarried there only about a fortnight while the Men were employed in finishing some Barracks which they had before my Arrival begun, & I gave Orders as the weather should permit to build some Store Houses for the Reception & preservation of such provisions as it was necessary & expedient to lay in immediately lest a severe Season should set in & deprive the Troops of all means of getting any kind of Supplies, the Situation of the Camp in a distant & almost uninhabited part of this province being better calculated to