

[Sharpe to Braddock.]

Letter Bk. II.
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Annapolis Feb^y 27. 1755.

Sir

By Capt. Rosse an Officer on half pay the Gentleman who presents you this I take the Liberty to congratulate you on your safe Arrival in America which I have had the happiness & Satisfaction to be informed of by a Lett^r that S^r I S^t Clair did me the honour to write as soon as he was advised thereof. You will be pleased to think that tis not without great Reluctance I postpone for a few Days journeying to Virginia to pay my Respects to you myself in person, but I hope you will excuse such my Tardiness when you learn that the Assembly of this Province are now met in Obedience to a Lett^r that S^r Tho^s Robinson has honoured me wth requiring Aids of this province for His Majestys Service & particularly to provide provisions for the Troops that shall be under your Command in this part of His Majestys Dominions. The necessity that this Lett^r laid me under of being present here at this time will I hope apologize for me till I have the pleasure of waiting on you which I promise myself in a very few Days as I have reason to expect that the Gent^l will think of Dispatching the Business abovementioned & returning home the beginning of next week at farthest. but as I am in this manner incapacitated to attend you, I have ventured to commit to writing & humbly p. 61 submit to you the Opinion which the situation of the country behind us & the late Transactions of the French has led me to entertain. You will not I am persuaded condemn this Freedom in communicating my Thoughts unasked for as a culpable Forwardness but rather attribute it to my earnest Desire to do every thing that may be agreeable to yourself.—What Intelligence we have lately rec^d concerning the French who have been sent to take possession of the Country adjacent to the River Ohio & their present Strength & Numbers in these parts you will know from S^r In^o S^t Clair & Gov^r Dinwiddie & I entertain the most sanguine hopes that their numbers there will not be found very formidable, but I am apprehensive that unless the Communication between Canada & the Forts & Settlements th^t the French have made to the Southward of Lake Erie can be cut off it will not be an easy matter to secure our possession of them after the Success of your Arms have recovered his Majesty's Dominions on which the French Troops have presumed some time since to encroach. The permission & Lycence that that nation obtained some years ago to build a Fort in the Country of the 6 Indian Nations at Niagara the pass or Streight between the Lakes Erie & Ontario have now given them the Command over those people & an Oppor-