

Beeves to be delivered one half before the 10<sup>th</sup> June the rest Letter Bk. II.  
before the End of the same month at the Camp wherever the  
Troops shall happen to be between Wills Creek & the River  
Monongahela at 17/ 7 cent (the fifth Quarter according to the  
custom of the Country) on condition you would agree to ad-  
vance him £300 in the Beginning of march. Capt Steven says  
that he believes your Honour ordered him to mention this to  
me that I might write my opinion thereon, that you will be  
pleased to recollect I acquainted you with w<sup>n</sup> I had the Satis-  
faction of seeing you & still think the proposal an acceptable  
one if the man could give good Security for his performance,  
but I make no doubt by y<sup>r</sup> Honour has eer this advised w<sup>th</sup> the  
General thereon & given Directions accordingly. I hope our p. 64  
Assembly will think of returning home the End of this & then  
I propose & hope I shall be able to be in Virginia the begin-  
ning of the ensuing week.

I am

[Sharpe (to William Sharpe?)]

Since my Appointment to the Command of the American  
Forces I do'n't doubt but every Body on your Side the  
Atlantick have been in constant Expectations of hearing of  
some Exploit in America in Consequence of his Majesty's  
honouring me with such a Commission. On the first Receipt  
of it tho the winter was then unhappily just approaching I was  
not absolutely without hopes myself of being enabled to satisfy  
in some measure my Friends Wishes for my Success & prosper-  
ity when I was in Virg<sup>a</sup> I proposed to Gov<sup>r</sup> Dinwiddie to  
raise 700 Men immediately & with them & the Independant  
Companies to have made an Attempt on the Fort that the  
Enemy had raised at the Mouth of the Monongahela, but  
whatever were my wishes at that time I was soon convinced of  
their Vanity when I arrived at Will's Creek. there I learnt that  
the Number of the French at their Fort exceeded 600 beside  
several Parties of Indians who were at their Devotion & sub-  
mitted to their Command. The Fort tho small was rendered  
pretty defensible by a Ditch & two Out works before the Cur-  
tains that faced the Land on the Side of the Rivers it was  
surrounded with Stoccdoes or Palisades & the Garrison had  
laid in a sufficient Stock of Provision for at least the whole  
winter.

The Troops that I must have commanded were three Inde-  
pendant Companies that did not in the least answer the Expec-  
tations I had entertained of them, the Remains of the Virg<sup>a</sup>  
Forces amounted to about 120 discontented unruly & mutinous;  
the Maryland Company was at that time incompleat &