

Original.

[Braddock to Sharpe.]

S^r

As I propose soon to begin my march for Fort Du Quesne I am desirous of adjusting every future contingency in such a manner as to avoid any mistake or misunderstanding. If I take the Fort in its present condition I shall make additions to it as I shall judge necessary & shall leave the Guns Ammunition & Stores belonging to the Fort with a Garrison of Virginia & Maryland forces But should they as I have reason to apprehend they should abandon & destroy the Fortification with its Guns &c I will repair or construct some place of defence & leave a Garrison as before But as to the Artillery ammunition Stores Provisions &c they must be immediatly supply'd by the Government of Virginia Maryland & Pensilvania seperatly or Jointly according to the agreement made at Alexandria And that I may not by delays in yours or the other Governments be detain'd so long as to frustrate any other designs for this year I must beg that you will have all these things in readiness to be forwarded to the Fort escorted by your Militia A proper quantity of Flower & Meal should be preparing as these in every scituation must be requird & if care is not taken to send these convoys the men must starve & his Majesty's Arms be dishonour'd (should they prove successful) & the expences & Trouble which his regard for the Colonies have engag'd him in renderd useless. Some Indians lately arriv'd from the French fort mention a bravado of the French & their Indians that they propose when the troops are far advanc'd to fall upon this back country & destroy the inhabitants Make what use or give credit to this intelligence as you please However it may not be amiss to take all possible precautions as I find impracticable to take my Chariot with me if you will send for it & the Harness for the six Horses I shall be much oblig'd to you & you will make use of it till I want it I shall be still more so as I am sure it will be less damag'd by good usage than by lying still it will also save you the trouble of sending for another to England as it shall be at your service at your own price when I leave this part of the World let your serv^{ts} take care of the harness & have it oild if you dont use it I shall leave directions to Coll: Innes to deliver Chariot Harness spare axle trees & pole to your order I am

S^r

Your most Obedient &
Most Humble Servant
E Braddock

Fort Cumberland

May 22^d 1755.Gov^r Sharpe