

[Sharpe to John Sharpe.]

Letter Bk. II.
p. 81May 24th 1755.D^r Brother

In my last dated the 19th of April of which I have now sent B^r W^m a Copy I acquainted you that I was about to depart for Frederick to wait on the General & do any Services in my power during his Stay there & thence accompany him to Virg^a It being very difficult to procure Waggon in this part of the world to convey the Stores & Baggage The Regiment that was at Frederickton could not move thence till the 29th of April & the General tarried behind till the first of May when I waited on him over Potowmack & took my leave. As the Inhabitants did not shew more forwardness here than in Virg^a to serve the Troops with their Waggon & Horses they were obliged to impress & take all they could find which the people not duly considering the necessity of such a proceeding heavily complain against especially as they cannot get payment for their Service & Attendance by reason our Assembly would not give or appropriate a small Sum of Money to that & similar uses tho it was so particularly enjoyned them by S^r Tho^s Robinson's last Letter. As the Burthen has fallen upon a few comparatively I am afraid the Assembly will never relieve them tho I doubt not they will speak very pathetically when they meet of the hardships the few have been subjected to by means of the Obstinacy of the many. The Regiments since their Arrival have been increased by about 200 Voluntiers from this Province but the General still finding the Regiments incomplete gave Orders for Recruiting Servants, this I in vain endeavoured to persuade him off from, representing the Mischief & Detriment that the Inhabitants must suffer from such a measure; the Servants immediately flocked in to enlist, Convicts not excepted, & their Masters made innumerable Applications to me for Relief which I was sorry to be unable to grant. here I found myself in difficult Circumstances. Many of the People's Cases really called for Pity & Redress as the Planters Fortunes here consist in the number of their Servants (who are purchased at high Rates) much as the Estates of an English Farmer do in the Multitude of Cattle. The General on his part I saw positive because he thought himself too weakly provided with Troops for what he has hopes of executing. As I have endeavoured so I hope I have behaved in such a manner as to give no Offence to either the General or the Province but I confess I shall not be surprized if the Officers at their Return (if it shall so happen) do not meet with the kindest Reception among the Inhabitants. I have received a Letter from the Camp since the General & the Troops have been at Wills-