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[Sharpe to Lord Albemarle.]

June 22. 1755—

My Ld

About a Month since I had the pleasure to receive by the hand of a Stranger the Letter w<sup>ch</sup> you did me the honour to write the 11<sup>th</sup> of last July, by w<sup>t</sup> Accident I have been so long deprived thereof I could not learn: I also embrace this Opportunity of Acknowledging the Receipt of your Ldps Favour including a Lett<sup>r</sup> to Gen<sup>l</sup> Braddock & to express my Thanks & Gratitude for the kind mention you were pleased to make of me therein. Your Ldp I flatter myself will be readily persuaded, that neither Disposition nor Endeavours were wanting on my Part to recommend myself to the General & to approve myself not entirely unworthy of the notice your Lordsp had taken of me to him & I have the Satisfaction to think he is not displeas'd at my Behaviour or Conduct) tho I should have been exceedingly glad to have assisted in Person & to have been better enabled than our assembly thought fit to contribute to the Success of the Expedition in which he is engaged. I have this Day received a Letter from him dated the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst when he was advanced about 25 Miles from Fort Cumberland (sometimes called Wills Creek) Westward but perhaps before I acquaint your Ldp what is now in Action I may be expected to give a short Relation of w<sup>t</sup> has been already done or rather left undone in Consequence of His Majesty's honouring me with the Commission that I acknowledged the Receipt of to your Ldp in Novem<sup>r</sup> When I was at that time at Williamsburg tho the winter was then unhappily just approaching I was not absolutely without hopes of being enabled to satisfy in some measure my Friend's wishes for my Success & Prosperity I proposed to Gov<sup>r</sup> Dinwiddie (who had £20000 from England at his Disposal beside £1500 which his Assembly had granted) to raise 500 or 600 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 hopes at that time I was soon convinced of their Vanity when in Novem<sup>r</sup> I arrived at Wills 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 & submitted to their Command, The Fort tho small was rendered pretty defensible by a Ditch & two Out Works before the Curtains that faced the Land on the side of the Rivers it was well secured by Palisadoes & the Garrison had laid in a sufficient quantity of Provision for at least the whole winter. On the Contrary, we had no Provisions yet procur'd & with great Difficulty could a Sufficiency be at that late Season purchased & collected; neither had Gov<sup>r</sup> Din-