

time convened I have apprized them of these Transactions Letter Bk. II. & desired them to empower me to raise & support a Company of Rangers for the Protection of our Frontiers from such kind of Incursions. They have not yet come to any Resolution, & I know not what I am to expect in Consequence of my Message—

[Sharpe to John Sharpe.]

D^r B^r

June 28th 1755—

Since the Date of my last a Copy of which is inclosed I have learnt that the General with the Troops under his command left Fort Cumberland the 10th Inst & that they had advanced about 40 Miles from that place westward the 22^d in their march so far they have been put to a good many Difficulties by the inequality of the Ground they have been obliged to pass & the Badness of the Roads which were almost impracticable for waggons & the Artillery. however as he must have descended into a more Level Country by this time we hope & expect in 8 or 10 Days to receive news from Fort Du Quesne Letters from the Camp tell me that their advanced Guard had discovered a party of the Enemy, but that a Skirmish ensued wants Confirmation—Our Assembly is now sitting they have shewn pretty good temper & moderation hitherto, but the Bill they have this morning sent up for £5000. is very similar to that lately rejected as to its matter & form so it must consequently meet with the same Fate. Pray on what is your Opinion with respect to his Lordships Right to the Ordinary Lycence Fines & those arising from Lycences granted Hawkers & pedlars founded. Our Lawyers seem to entertain different Sentiments & many of his Ldp's Council appear wavering. In the Infancy of the Colony the Fines upon p. 96 Ordinary Lycences were taken by the Lord Baltimore as his by prerogative, & sometimes they were by him given to his Secretary: When King William assumed the Govern^t they were appropriated by Law & have been since that time given by several temporary Laws to the late Lord, in 39 the Assembly refused to continue them to his Ldp & the Law expiring, no Lycences were granted; in 1740 they were by Law appropriated to defray the Expence of raising men for the Carthagea Expedition. again in 1746 for that intended against Canada which Law is still in force, by an Act made last July they are appropriated toward Sinking £6000. that was then granted for his Majesty's Service, this act I ventured to pass with the advice of his Ldp's Council contrary to my first Instructions in what manner I am at present restrained you will see in the inclosed