

Indians & French amounting together to about 130 Men have been seen in the Frontier Counties where they have destroyed 9 Families & plundered & burnt their Habitations. He acquaints me too that the General Assembly of that Gov^t have granted £10000 more for the Service of the Expedition to be raised by a Land Tax of 15^d p 100 Acres 15^d on every Taxable negroe, & 10 p C^t on Negroes imported; they have also empowered the Governor to raise 200 Men for the Protection of their Frontiers agst the Incursions & Ravages of the French & Indians & he is raising two Companies of Rangers accordingly. from our receiving no Letters from the General since those dated the 22 of June we Apprehend that those Indian Parties have cut off the Communication between him & Fort Cumberland & taken the Carriers. I am about to depart for Frederickton (where I have given Orders for all the Military Officers of that C^{ty} to meet) to try what can be done with the Militia for the Defence & Protection of our distant Inhabitants, I propose to draft a Company of 60 or 80 from the Militia by Lot & oblige them to keep ranging on the Frontiers for a few Months without any Pay. Provisions they must impress & take it where it can be found & if money be ever granted, the People from whom it is taken must be satisfied for the same. Unless some such Step be taken The people will not be persuaded to stay on their plantations being already struck with an universal pannick—The Representatives for Frederick & some of the other C^{ty}s on this side the Bay would have gladly done any thing to obtain Assistance & protection but as the Gentⁿ whose Counties are not so immediately exposed did not so sensibly feel for the Sufferings of the poor people as they would were they less retired from Danger all propositions for an Accommodation were vain & fruitless. The Laws are transcribed as low down as 1749 so that I hope to have them bound & fit to be sent by the very next Opportunity—

Letter Bk. I.

p. 138

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

July 9th 1755—

My Ld

Inclosed is a Duplicate of the last Lett^r that I took the Liberty to address to your Ldp & I heartily wish the Contents of what I am now writing were more agreeable than the news that I then communicated. When the Gentⁿ of the Lower House came to the Resolutions that your Lordship was before advised of I was not without hopes that they would fall on some unexceptionable Means to raise a small Sum of Money for the protection of your Lordships Tenants who are exposed