

You will suppose the News of General Braddocks defeat has thrown the People into the greatest Consternation I have called the Gentⁿ of the Council to take their Advice & writ Circulary Letters to have the Slaves, Convicts &c well observed & watched & given Orders for the Militia of the several C^{ties} to be prepared to quell it in case any Insurrection should be occasioned by this Stroke, we are encouraging Subscriptions among the Gentⁿ & People for the Defence & protection of the Frontiers, whereby I hope & expect to be enabled to raise a hundred or two Men in a very few Days, if the Burgesses in the several C^{ties} do not oppose it as they lately did & persuaded the people that if the Gov^r should raise Money by such Methods they must not hope to have any more Assemblies convened but that the people must expect & obey Orders of Council & Ordinances instead of Laws made by their Representatives & with their own Consent, thus may these Tribunes impose on the weak minds of the People & while they delude them with the empty sounds of Liberty & Priveledge most effectually contribute to their Destruction & the Loss of His Majestys Dominions indeed if the French w^d determine to make the greatest use of their Victory I question whether 2000 Regular Troops with as many Indians would not descend to the Bay of Chesopeak such an opinion have I of our Militia w^{ch} are about 18000 & any Force that can be mustered in Vir^a to oppose them. While the above was writing a Gent from Potowmack came & informed me that the Courier who brought the fatal News to Coll Innes said also that S^r Peter Halkett was among the slain & that S^r I S^r Clair had lost an Arm & was much wounded & also said that Col^o Dunbar with the Rear & Baggage Guard consisting of ab^t 700 was retreating to Fort Cumberland, of the safety or Escape of any of the Rest I despair if what he further relates be true that with the French Regulars that attacked the Gen^l there were not less than 2000 Indians—

Letter Bk. I.

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[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

July 15th 1755 To Gov^r Dinwiddie—

Letter Bk. II.

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S^r I have just now received a Copy of a Lett^r directed to all whom it may concern which was sent by Col^o Innes to Lord Fairfax the 11th Inst. & by him forwarded to you. The Gentⁿ belonging to the Nova Scotia Regiments (who having not yet received any Letters from those two who went to wait on the General remain still in Town) have been with me desiring my Advice or Directions for their Conduct; as they were only