

making themselves masters of the Lake Ontario & indeed that Acquisition seems to be of such Consequence or rather so absolutely necessary for the well-being of their Troops on the Ohio & elsewhere to the Southward that I shall not be surprized to hear that they have bent the whole strength of Canada against Governor Shirley, & tho they should not succeed against him this summer yet I am persuaded that that important Post will not be secured as it ought to be untill General Shirley be well succoured either from England or by the Colonies Letter Bk. II.

A Letter was also transmitted at the same time to W^m Sharpe Esq beginning as follows.

[Sharpe to William Sharpe.]

D^r Brother

My Letter of the 15th will I doubt not make you very impatient & anxious to know what has been the Event of the Engagement which happened between the Troops commanded by General Braddock &c the same as the Lett^r to Ld Baltimore then proceeds: fress Provisions & such things as I think necessary for the Troops & shall perhaps persuade some Men to join & Escort them to Fort Cumberland if I do not proceed thither myself, I shall soon be able to learn whether Colo Dunbar will venture on action again before he receives Instructions from England or whether he determines to remain only on the Defensive. if he is inclined to the first I suppose we must meet our Assemblies once more & endeavour to get him reinforced & a Sufficiency of Ammunition & Provisions. I do not think the Season is yet too far advanced to make an Attempt on the Fort before Winter if these Colonies will unite & exert themselves & if a few Battering Pieces & Artillery Stores can be timely got from New York. Now it is likely these three Colonies will sensibly feel the want of a proper Militia Law but I still despair of persuading the Assembly to prepare one or of taking any other proper measure for the Security or real welfare of their Country. Nothing has been left untried by some of those Patriots to interrupt & prevent the Subscription I before spoke of but I beleive notwithstanding their Opposition £2000 will be contributed by the Gentⁿ for the Support of a Company to range on our Frontiers. if Shirley too should meet with any Disappointments on Ontario to what a Condition will these Colonies thro the Obstinacy & Parcimony of a few be brought & what a vast Acquisition will the French have made on this Continent while we are infatuated to look on as idle Spectators & as if we were not interested in the

p. 119