

Letter Bk. I.

[Sharpe to Calvert.]

11th of August 1755 transmitted by Capt Garnet, & a Duplicate by Capt Carrol.

S^r

The 23^d of July I addressed a Lett^r to his Ldp & another to yourself acquainting you with the fatal Engagement that had happened near the Banks of the Monongahela. I was then proceeding Westward with an Intention to send up a Supply of fresh Provisions & Wine to Fort Cumberland which I imagined the Troops must have been in great need of. On my Arrival at Conegogee which is 30 Miles beyond Frederick Town I was informed that they had plenty of every thing at the Camp & that Col^o Dunbar had determined & was about to leave Fort Cumberland & to march with the Remains of the two Regiments & the three Independant Companies to Phila^a. This News so soon after the Depredations of the Indians & the General's Defeat had much alarmed & thrown our distant Inhabitants into great Consternation, they concluded that when the Troops should retire from the Frontiers the Enemy would repeat & renew their Devastations & that twas better for them to fly naked & leave their habitations than remain an easy Prey to an enraged & cruel Enemy, who may now have free & uninterrupted Access to these two infatuated & defenceless Colonies, some that were retiring to their Friends in the more populous Parts of this & the neighbouring Provinces I persuaded to return back with Assurances that a sufficient Body of Troops would be left at Fort Cumberland for the Security of that Place & that I would take proper Measures to prevent the Inroads & Incursions of any French or Indian Parties which I hope will be effectually done by the small Forts that I have ordered to be built, one on Tonallaway Creek & three under the North Mountain in each of which I shall place a small Garrison with Orders to them to patrol from one to the other & to Fort Cumberland & in case of Alarms to receive the neighbouring Families into their Protection. The Subscription that has been made in this County & some other Parts of the Province has enabled me to take this Step for the Security of our Frontiers & to continue on foot the Maryland Company which the late Resolves of the Lower House had made me desire the General to distribute between the two Regiments. The Virg^a Assembly is again convened & that of Pens^a is also sitting as you will see by one of the inclosed Gazetts they have given the Governor room to expect £50000 will be granted at this time for his Majestys Service but I am told they propose to raise it by a Land Tax to which the Proprietary's unpatented Land will be likewise subjected, if they still insist upon such unreasonable