

together with the want of Officers as well as Men & Camp Equipage, the Disposition & weakness of those that have made the last & above all the want of a Fund to defray the Expences of another Campaign ocured as Arguments against his Marching immediatly to act on the Offensive or to pursue the plan that the General had proposed to prosecute wherefore he has put the Resolution he had before taken in Execution & is returning to Phil<sup>a</sup> in Expectation I presume of receiving there General Shirley's Letters or Instructions. The several Companies that have been raised & supported by the Gov<sup>ts</sup> of Virg<sup>a</sup> N Carolina & Maryland are left to garrison Fort Cumberland & to protect the Frontiers of these Provinces till something farther can be done for their security & for his Majestys Service. With due respect &c—

[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

Aug<sup>st</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1755—

S<sup>r</sup>

Yours dated the 31<sup>st</sup> July I received last Thursday on my Return from Fort Cumberland whither the unwelcome News of General Braddock's Misfortune & the Consternation & Apprehensions of our distant Inhabitants had carried me, I had procured & was sending away some Beeves & wine from Conegoee to the Camp imagining the Troops there may have wanted such necessaries when I was advised that they had the greatest plenty of both & that Col<sup>o</sup> Dunbar was preparing to march with the Remains of the two Regiments & the Independent Companies to Phil<sup>a</sup>. This last Acco<sup>t</sup> had more alarmed our back Inhabitants than the Generals Defeat they concluded that they should be now left exposed to the Incursions of the Indians & an easy prey to a victorious & cruel Enemy. Some that wer retiring to the more populous parts of the Province I persuaded to return with me & encouraged many others who entertained thoughts of removing to remain on their plantations by promising them that some effectual measures should be instantly taken for their Protection & security. Accordingly I have ordered some small Forts to be constructed in the distant Parts of the Province to which the neighbouring Families may resort in case of an alarm & unite with the Garrisons which are composed of some Voluntiers that went out so far with me. The Expence of this I shall be enabled to defray by the subscription that has been made here for such purposes & out of the same Fund I shall support Capt Dagworthys Company that was with the General which is now with the Virg<sup>a</sup> Forces at Fort Cumberland the last of July when I reached the Camp Col<sup>o</sup> Dunbar gave Orders to the Troops to put themselves in

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