

Block Houses built in both provinces & if it can be so agreed Letter Bk. II.  
in Pens<sup>a</sup> also whereby I think the Enemy would be deterred  
from sending any more parties to commit Devastations on our  
Borders by the Difficulty they would find in securing a Retreat.  
I see by the Gazette that the Pens<sup>a</sup> Assembly has given Gov<sup>r</sup>  
Morris Room to expect a Sum of money from them at this  
time for his Majestys Service, if they prepare such a Bill as he  
can accept I shall immediately summon ours to meet in hopes  
they will as heretofore follow the Quaker's Example—

[Sharpe to William and John Sharpe.]

August 11<sup>th</sup> [1755]

D<sup>r</sup> B<sup>r</sup>

The 23<sup>d</sup> of July I gave you as particular an Acco<sup>t</sup> as I had  
then been able to get of the fatal Engagement that happened  
between the English Troops commanded by Gen<sup>l</sup> Braddock &  
the Indians & French from Fort du Quesne on the 9<sup>th</sup> of that  
Month; from Bladensburg whence that Letter was dated I  
proceeded the Day after towards Fort Cumberland whither I  
was about to send some fatted Oxen & Wine (which I imagined  
the Troops must have wanted) when I was informed that they  
had plenty of every thing at the Camp & that Colo. Dunbar p. 125  
was preparing to march thence w<sup>th</sup> the Remains of the two  
Regiments & the Independant Companies to Phil<sup>a</sup> This last  
Intelligence I found had thrown our distant Inhabitants into the  
greatest Consternation the late Depredations of the Indians  
& the news of the Generals misfortune had almost determined  
them to retire towards the more populous parts of the Country  
but now they no longer hesitated concluding that when Col<sup>o</sup>  
Dunbar should draw off the Troops from our Borders the  
Enemy would instantly renew & repeat their Devastations &  
that twas better for them to relinquish their Possessions at  
once than remain where they must become an easy prey to an  
enraged & victorious Enemy. this convinced me that my  
Journey to Fort Cumberland thro the Country was more  
expedient than I had before conceived & I was glad to find that  
my Presence & the promises that I made them that I would take  
effectual measures for their Protection & security prevailed on  
some that I met retreating & on others that had passed me to  
return back & resolve to remain on their respective Plantations.  
I ordered some small Forts to be constructed at proper places  
in the distant parts of the province to which the neighbouring  
Families may resort in case of Danger or Alarms these Forts  
I have garrisoned with small parties of Voluntiers that I carried  
up with me who have Orders to be continually patrolling from