

Letter Bk. I. P. S. Pray how or by whom is the Expence of copying the Laws that are now transmitted to be defrayed, if t'was to be charged to the publick the Lower House would never I doubt admit it into the Journal, but if they should when would the Transcriber get satisfied if he must depend on the publick for payment, Your Instructions hereon will be acceptable.

Letter Bk. II.  
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[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

Sept. 2<sup>d</sup> 1754. [1755]

S<sup>r</sup>

Your Lett<sup>r</sup> dated the 25<sup>th</sup> ult I have received & considered, & as I am about to make a short Excursion from Annapolis & may not probably return before Your Express arrives from Phil<sup>a</sup> I leave this in answer to that your Letter. I readily agree with you that many great Advantages would have, attended Col<sup>o</sup> Dunbars constructing some place of Defence for the security of the Stores as well as the Troops under his Command at the place where he was encamped when he received the News of the General's Misfortune & I am inclined to think the Enemy would not have ventured to attack him had he been advantageously posted there or any where between that place & Fort Cumberland where he might have been reinforced & supplied with such things as may have been wanted towards making a second Attempt this Summer, that such a Step was not taken Col<sup>o</sup> Dunbar says was entirely owing to the General who as soon as he was brought up to his Encampment gave Orders for his Retreat & for destroying every thing that was not brought off—When Colo Dunbar called the Council he did produce & read Your Letter & I beleive the other members as I did myself apprehended Your meaning in general to be that if the particular Modes of reducing Fort Du Quesne therein specified could not be followed any other Step should be taken whereby the Enemy might be most offended & His Majesty's Service best advanced, some of the Reasons that made me averse to Col<sup>o</sup> Dunbar's marching westward I have already intimated to you & I hope they are thought satisfactory but I doubt not but S<sup>r</sup> I<sup>n</sup> S<sup>t</sup> Clair (who I expect is e'er this with you) will if you ask him give you other convincing Reasons for his Opinion which was pretty similar to mine on that Occasion, Col<sup>o</sup> Dunbar did not consult us on any other Affairs & I took it for granted at that time as I do now that he intended to proceed to join General Shirley if the General should approve thereof & not go into Quarters as it seems he writ you that he intended. I expected he would have left the Independant Companies where he found them, at least I did not conceive he w<sup>d</sup> have carried the