

the Colonies shall then exert a proper Spirit) may secure all points in dispute between us and the French.

As a Meeting of Commissioners from all the Colonies as far Westward as Virginia inclusive, with me to be appointed by Act of Assembly, in the Month of October or November in order to consult upon the most Proper measures to be taken for the general Interest of the Common Cause the next Spring, may have a good Effect for his Majestys Service, I mention it to your Excell^{cy} for your Consideration and shall do the same to the other Gov^{ts} in a Circular Letter: if such a Convention shall be thought adviseable, I would propose New York for the Place of meeting, and the 15th of November the time for it, as I shall be there in my Return to Boston, where I must be present early in December.

As I think a very early Campaign the next year necessary I have sent orders to Col Dunbar the Commanding officer of his Majestys two British Regiments & two Independent Companies of New York to March those Troops directly to Albany, where I design their Winter Quarters shall be, and to leave at this Place as many of the Troops now with me, as can be supported here during the Winter, that they may be assembled ready to act either Separately or in conjunction with such Provincial Troops as the Colonies shall think fit to raise ag^t the French Settlem^{ts} either upon the Lakes and Ohio; which last place is very accessible thro^t that Route, or ag^t any part of Canada, as his Majestys Service, & the General Interest of the Colonies may most require.

The first thought of having a Meeting with Commissioners from the Colonies was Suggested to me from the inclosed Extract.

As Col Dunbar's and the late Sir Peter Halkets Regim^{ts} have been greatly reduced by the Defeat of the late Major General Braddock in their March to the Ohio for the Protection and Service of the several Colonies of Pensilvania, Maryland and Virginia in Particular; and his Majestys Service, & their further Protection require that those Regiments should be compleated to 1000 men each by the beginning of the Spring, I can't but hope that the three before mentioned Gov^{ts} will readily make Grants for Supplying Col Dunbar & L^t Col Gage with levy money for that purpose; and that your Honour will be pleased to recommend it in the Strongest Terms to the Assembly within your own Governm^t I have wrote to Gov^r Morris & Gov^r Dinwiddie to the same Effect.

I am with great Regard

Sir

Your Honours Most Humble
and most Obedient Servant

W Shirley.

Hon^{ble} Horatio Sharpe Esq^r