

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

Original.

Oct<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1755—

My Lord

I have but just had the pleasure of receiving the Letter that Your Lordship did me the honour to write the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. The Approbation your Lordship is pleased to express of my past Conduct gives me inexpressible Satisfaction & I hope your Lordship will be persuaded that it shall be my constant study to merit the Continuance of your Lordships Favour. Sooner than this the plan that was proposed for the Collection of the Quit Rents could not be put in Execution, but the Sheriffs do now farm them at 10 p ct. which is but half the Premium that was given when I was honoured with your Lordships Commission. On this as well as your Lordships other Affairs I have writ fully to M<sup>r</sup> Calvert who will submit my Letters to your Lordship & signify to me your Lordships pleasure thereon—I have not heard from General Shirley since the 9<sup>th</sup> of last Month whence I am afraid he finds it impossible to execute any thing this Fall; it is reported too that the French Men of War which were in Louisburg have given the English Squadron the slip, & that Admiral Boscawen with the greatest part of the Fleet under his Command is returned to Halifax & about to sail for England. We are also told that since the Action which happened on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Septem<sup>r</sup> General Johnson has been reinforced by five or Six Thousand Men from New England but that being unable to proceed to Crown Point he was constructing a place of Defence at the Carrying Place near Lake George wherein he would leave a strong Garrison & the Rest of the Forces would return to their respective homes.

I have not heard that any Mischief has been done on the Frontiers of your Lordships Province since I writ last to M<sup>r</sup> Calvert, but a Person who was lately taken Prisoner & carried almost to Fort Du Quesne by the Indians before he made his Escape says that he heard them threaten to return & pay us another Visit as soon as they had delivered up their Prisoners & Scalps to the French Commandant & received their Reward. I cannot find that they have killed many People on this side Potowmack but it is said that some hundreds of the distant Inhabitants of Virginia are missing & their Houses burnt. I have posted two partys of Men on our Frontiers which I hope will be of Service till some Measures that may be taken at home in Consequence of the Action on the Monongahela shall afford Us better Assistance & Protection.

With the Utmost respect and Duty I am

Your Lordships most Devoted and

most Obed. Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Hor<sup>o</sup> Sharpe

Annapolis

October 22<sup>d</sup> 1755