

Letter Bk. II.  
p. 176

[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

March the 7<sup>th</sup> 1756

S<sup>r</sup>

The Bearer comes Express with Lett<sup>rs</sup> from Gen<sup>l</sup> Shirley whence I presume you will learn that he has sent me a Commission & Orders to take the Command of 4000 Men which he expects will be raised in these Southern Colonies for an Expedition to the Westward over & above a Body of 3284 which are to be sent hence to the Northward to act in Conjunction with the Troops that he will himself command on the western Lakes. I am afraid that His Excellency is much too sanguine in his hopes & Expectations from these Colonies; by what I can find none of them have yet come to a Resolution to furnish their respective quotas for the Expeditions proposed to be carried on to the Northward but as I am ordered to take the Command of such Forces as may be raised for an Expedition to the Westward I shall be glad to know how many men your Govern<sup>t</sup> will engage to furnish for that Service; when they will be able to rendezvous at Fort Cumberland & ag<sup>st</sup> what time a sufficient quantity of Provisions will be laid in there for their Subsistance during the Campaign, if you can engage a sufficient Number of Waggons & Horses to attend such Troops, whether you have a sufficient Magazine of Arms & Ammunition & a Train of Artillery proper for such an Expedition or what you can furnish towards a Train for such Service. I must beg you also to let me know whether you have received any late Advice from Gov<sup>s</sup> Dobbs or Glen of the Intentions of the Carolina Govern<sup>ts</sup> to join with these Colonies in attempting the Reduction of Fort Du Quesne & if you have not been already well informed with respect to those particulars that you will write to Governors Glen & Dobbs & desire to know what assistance we may certainly expect from them respectively, & what Number of Warriours the Cherokee & Catawba Nations will engage to send us. I shall immediately acquaint the General with the Difficulties that I am afraid we shall labour under in putting his Plan in Execution unless he can venture to give me Money or Credit, but I cannot be so explicit & particular as I could wish till I receive your answer which therefore I shall impatiently desire & hope to receive as soon as possible.

A Lett<sup>r</sup> was at the same time writ to Gov<sup>r</sup> Morris to know how many men that Gov<sup>t</sup> would engage to furnish for this Expedition to the westward—