

[Sharpe to Shirley.]

Letter Bk. II.

Annapolis. the 7th of March 1756.S^r

I am just favoured with your Lett^r dated the 23^d of Feb^y & am much obliged to you for your kind Intention in honouring me with a Commission to command w^t Forces shall be raised in these Southern Colonies for an Expedition to the westward tho' I am very apprehensive that I shall not find myself enabled by these Colonies to execute your Commission as you may expect or as I could wish. The warlike Spirit that has spread itself thro the Eastern Colonies has not (I am sorry to say it) yet reached these Regions. hitherto these Provinces appear quite inactive & so far from being disposed to comply with your Requisition by sending Troops hence to act in Conjunction with his Majesty's Regiments under your immediate Command that they have not even made provision for effectually securing their own Frontiers. I have writ to Gov^r Dinwiddie to know how many Troops that Dominion will engage to furnish for the Service on which your Excellency is pleased to order me & also what Assistance we may certainly expect from the Carolinas. The Assembly of Pens^a has I hear been sitting a month & is not yet come to any Resolutions to grant Supplies of Men or Money towards carrying any Part of the Plan that you submitted to us at N York into Execution which makes me fear they will not so readily contribute their quota either as your Excellency seems to hope. The Assembly of this Province too has been now met a fortnight but have not yet come to any Determination with respect to the several matters that agreeably to your Lett^r I recommended to their Consideration. A Vote has indeed passed for granting £40000 this or Pens^a Curr^{cy} but from Experience I find that with us there is a wide Difference between voting a Sum of Money & granting or raising it; but suppose for once the several Branches of this Legislature should be unanimous & agree with regard to the mode of raising money £40.000 will go but a little way towards raising subsisting & transporting the number of Men that is deemed the Quota of this Colony. for a larger Sum I am persuaded I shall apply in vain but your Excellency may be assured that I will leave nothing untried to bring about what each of us so earnestly desire & have so much at heart. I must observe to your Excellency that we are but very badly provided either with Arms or Ammunition in these Provinces & that all together we shall be unable to compose a tolerable Train of Artillery which I doubt not your Excellency will think absolutely necessary for us to be provided with. As your Excellency knows very considerable contingent Expences