

[Sharpe to Shirley.]

Letter Bk. III

10<sup>th</sup> of April 1756—S<sup>r</sup>

The inclosed Letter I am desired to forward to y<sup>r</sup> Excellency from Col<sup>o</sup> Washington & to request you to commissionate & appoint him Second in Command in case these Colonies shall raise a sufficient Number of Troops for carrying on an Expedition or making a Diversion to the Westward this Summer; As M<sup>r</sup> Washington is much esteemed in Virginia & really seems a Gentl<sup>n</sup> of Merit I should be exceedingly glad to learn that your Excellency is not averse to favouring his Application & Request. The Assembly of this province is still sitting but no Supply Bill is yet passed & I hear that the Virginians have not yet come to any Resolution to grant such Supplies as you have recommended to them & required. If I shall have any prospect of being enabled to do any thing this Summer in pursuance of the Commission with which you have been pleased to honour me I must beg the favour of your Excellency to give me an Order for all His Majesty's Stores of any kind that I can find or discover in Virg<sup>a</sup> or this province lest the Persons in whose Custody they were left last year may not think my Receipt or Order alone for them a sufficient Indemnification I am &c.

[Sharpe to Shirley.]

14<sup>th</sup> of April 1756—S<sup>r</sup>

I do myself the honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lett<sup>r</sup> dated at Boston the 28<sup>th</sup> Ult. but am sorry that the measures taken by the Assembly of this Province & the Delay of those of the two neighbouring Colonies to grant any Supplies obliges me to acquaint your Excellency that I have now very little hopes of seeing such a Number of Men raised by them this Summer as would be able to carry your Excellency's Scheme for the Reduction of Fort Du Quesne into Execution; By a Return made me by the Lieut<sup>t</sup> Colonel of the Virg<sup>a</sup> Regiment the 22<sup>d</sup> of March I find that it does not exceed 440 Men. Capt Dagworthy's Company of fifty that has been kept up by this Province the Assembly will lay me under a Necessity of disbanding unless you will choose to take upon yourself to support it during the Campaign or order them to N York & take them into the Regiments under your own Command. I cannot find that the Commissioners who went from Virg<sup>a</sup> to the Cherokees are yet returned or have been lately heard of;