

French are at Fort Du Quesne I have not heard but if they Letter Bk. III learn that we are making no preparations for another Expedition that Way as no doubt they will from the Captives they are daily making I presume they will detach as many Men as they can possibly spare to reinforce their Garrisons on the Lakes; & I am confirmed in this Opinion by the Instructions that were found in the pockett of an Ensign who was lately killed by some of the Inhabitants of Virg^a near Conegochiegh. I am persuaded that if the Assembly would have been prevailed on to provide for their Subsistance a considerable Number of the Inhabitants of Maryland would have been inclined to make a Campaign with me, but as I have now no farther hopes from that Quarter, unless your Excellency should find yourself impowered & think proper to direct & authorize me to raise & subsist 500 or 600 Men during the Summer I must give over all thoughts of getting any Troops from this Province, & have nothing more to do than in Obedience to your Excellency's Orders to put Myself at the head of the Virg^a & N Carolina Forces when they join & proceed as you shall command either to secure the Frontiers of these provinces or advance towards the Enemy. I am &c—

[Sharpe to Morris.]

April the 24th 1756

S^r

M^r Lunen of Phil^a calling on me on His Return from Virg^a I embrace the Opportunity to intimate to you that our Assembly is still sitting but as the Lower House seem to be absolutely determined to grant no Supplies unless they can at the same time carry certain points which manifestly tend to subvert in a great measure the Constitution & render it more similar to that of Pensilvania which I beleive you do not think the most perfect, I expect to find myself under a necessity of proroguing them in three or four Days—I am informed by a Lett^r from Alexandria that a Ship which left England the 12th of Feb^y & arrived at Hampton the 16th Inst. brings Advice that War was declared in England two Days before She sailed & that Lord Loudon & Col^o Abercrombie with three Regiments were coming hither—The Indians have lately done a good deal of Mischief on the Frontiers of Virg^a the Forts that were some time since built there for the Protection of the Back-Inhabitants have been many of them attacked & some reduced & destroyed & a Detachment from the Virg^a Regiment of 50 Men commanded by Capt Mercier has been defeated near Cape Capon about 18 miles from Winchester, the Captain, Lieutenant, 3 Sergeants & 15 private Men were killed or wounded & left to the Enemy—