

Letter Bk. III power; I must therefore yield to all their Absurdities & let dear-bought Experience convince them that there is no immediate Connection between Tobacco planting & Military Affairs & that the Knowledge of one does not always imply Skill or Experience in the other. I have writ to the Secretary of State to acquaint him with our deplorable Situation & the Inability of the people to take effectual Measures for their own preservation, I have intimated to him that the Assembly have resolved to grant £40,000 for His Majesty's Service & the Defence of the Province but that fearing they might involve themselves in greater Expences than the Circumstances of their Constituents can bear if they had impowered me to raise any considerable Body of Men they have restrained the Number to 200, tho I could easily raise 700 or 800 from among the Inhabitants if the Assembly would grant Money for that purpose; I have inclosed the Letter to Lord Baltimore as I am ordered to do all that I write to the Ministry, but as it will be presented Mr Fox soon after you receive this, possibly you may make as good a use of it as if you had it to deliver yourself. I delay writing to Iennings till I know the Determination of the Lower House of Assembly on a matter which concerns myself & him & about which he writ to me; but if your Fears about him have proved groundless he shall receive a Letter by the next Ship that sails—

[Sharpe to Fox.]

3^d of May 1756

R^t Hon^{ble}

In Obedience to your Commands signified in a Lett^r which I did myself the honour to acknowledge my Receipt of the 8th of March I am now to inform you that soon after my Return from N York where I had been attending General Shirley last Nov^r & Decem^r I convened the Assembly of this Province & laying before them the General's Plan of Operations exhorted & pressed them to contribute as much as was in their power towards carrying it into Execution, & to provide for the Defence & Security of the Frontiers of this Province on which some parties of Indians had begun to make Incursions. After having sat some weeks they voted about £25,000 St^s for His Majesty's Service & have been since preparing a Bill for that purpose. They intend to appropriate part of the Money for building a Fort on the Frontiers of this Province & garrisoning it with 200 Men, but as the Fort is to be 60 Miles on this Side Fort Cumberland & the Men to be all disbanded next Winter, I am afraid the Money will be expended without contributing much to the Security of the Inhabitants of this