

they ought to shew themselves good Subjects, in complying with His Majesty's Comānds for a mutual Supply. As the Dignity of the Crown His Majesty's just Right to these Lands, & the Safety of all the Colonies much depends on this Expedition.

But you or I, can do no more than press the Necessity thereof, which I am convinc'd you have done in the strongest Manner

I remain with very sincere Respect
Y^r Excellency's
Most Obed^t hble Serv^t
Rob^t Dinwiddie

Gov^r Sharpe.

[Dinwiddie to Sharpe.]

Original.

S^r Williamsburg Apr. 10th 1754.

Enclos'd I send you a Letter that came under my cover from M^r Glen Governor of S^o Carolina.

That Gentleman proposes to me, a Meeting of all the Governors on the Continent at Virginia, the Middle of Iune next, to adjust a Quota of each Colony to be employ'd on the present Expedition to the Ohio. I do not know what Influence he may have on his Assembly, but I am sure the Assembly of this Dominion wou'd not be directed what Supplies to grant, & will always be guided by their own free Determinations; & wou'd think it an Insult on their Prevedges that they are so very fond of, to be under any restraint or Direction.

What he proposes might have been very necessary some Time ago to represent Homc the Situation & Circumstances of each Colony, with their opinion on the Insults & Invasions of the French; but this by no means can be a proper Time, when they are daily expected down the Ohio River, & no Time is to be lost in building the Fort, agreeable to His Majesty's Comānds to me.

Add thereto the Gov^r of N York's meeting the Six Nations at Albany the 10th June; & my Appointm^t & to meet the Northern & Southern Indians at Winchest^r the 20th of next M^o. wherefore I think his Proposal to meet here with the other Governors in June, is at this Time impracticable; & am of opinion the Governors to the Northward wou'd not agree to so long a Iourney, particularly from N: England.

The object I have in my Eye is building the Fort. Cap^t Trent has the Comānd of Seventy or Eighty Men on the Spot, at the Forks of Monongehela, & a Detachment of 150 Men are march'd, a Week ago, from Alexandria to join him; & another Detachment of the same Number will march from thence the Beginning of next Week to support them.