

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Loudon.]

31st of May 1756—

My Ld.

As I entertain the most sanguine hopes that your Ldp's safe arrival in America will very shortly give us room to congratulate your Ldp & Ourselves, I take the Liberty to wish your Ldp all felicity & Success in your Undertakings, & to acquaint you with the present Condition of the Province under my Care, But as Govern^r Dinwiddie informs me that a Gentⁿ of the Council of Virg^a will wait on your Ldp immediately on your arrival & represent the Situation of Affairs in this part of His Majesty's Dominions, I shall avoid prolixity & only mention such Matters as my Duty seems more particularly to require— The latter End of Feb^y His Excellency Gen^l Shirley was pleased to send me a Commission & Instructions to take the Command of all the Forces that should be raised in these Southern Colonies for an Expedition to the Westward or against Fort Du Quesne this Summer & desired that I would recommend it to the Assembly of this Province to grant their quota of Men to act in Conjunction with such as he had asked & as he hoped the Neighbouring Colonies would raise for that purpose. Our Assembly have accordingly granted £15,700 St^s to raise & support Troops for such Service but as it is not to be appropriated or used unless the other Colonics shall contribute their respective Proportions; & as Govern^r Dobbs advises me that he has according to General Shirley's Desire sent all the Men which he has been enabled to raise in Carolina to N York, & the Pensilvanians are averse to granting any Supplies, No Expedition can possibly be carried on here agreeable to the General's Instructions, I am therefore in Compliance with the Request of our Assembly about to proceed towards the Western Frontiers of this Province to have a Fort constructed there for the better Security of the Inhabitants, which is to be garrisoned with 200 Men that are raising for that Service. Your Ldp I presume already knows or will be informed by Col^o Ludwell that on Potowmack within this Province & about 60 Miles beyond our present Settlements there is a Fort which according to a late Return of the Commanding Officer is garrisoned with about 200 Men from the Regiment that has been raising in Virginia. inclosed I send your Ldp a Return of His Majesty's Stores that have remained there ever since Col^o Dunbar marched thence to Phil^a last Summer. As there was a Necessity of having the Powder shifted & the Casks trimmed to prevent its spoiling I lately gave Orders to the person that was left by the Commanding Officer of the Train at Fort Cumberland to take Care of those Stores, to get it done & to draw