

for the Amount of the Expen^d that might attend it on the Paymaster to His Majesty's Train in America, but as the Stores & especially the Powder is for want of a proper Magazine in a good deal of Danger from the Enemy I submit to your Ldp whether it would not be better to have it removed down to the inhabited part of the Country till there shall be an immediate Use for it. Besides the Stores mentioned in the inclosed Return there were in the Custody of one M^r Carlyle in Virg^a 587 Barrells of Irish Beef, 230 Barrells of Irish Butter & 21 Barrells of Flour but as some Troops that I have kept up for the Protection of our Back Inhabitants ever since Col^o Dunbar left us were some time since much distressed for provisions before I was empowered by the Assembly to supply them I ventured to draw on M^r Carlyle for 100 Barrells of the Beef & I hear that the Rest is removed to Winchester a Town on the Frontiers of Virg^a for the use of the Militia that Governor Dinwiddie has ordered thither for the People's Defence.

I am &c

[Sharpe to John Sharpe.]

1st of Iune 1756—

D^r B^r

I have in a former Lett^r intimated that there are several Matters about which Disputes have subsisted many years between the Ld Proprietary & the People of this Province which have & will (till they are determined) prevent any harmony or Union between the several Branches of the Legislature at this time particularly so desirable & requisite & which therefore we should unanimously study to bring about & promote. The two principal Bones of Contention or Matters in Dispute are a Port Duty of Fourteen Pence a Ton on all Vessels owned by Non Residents that trade to this Province, & an Imposition of One Shilling a Hogshead on all Tob^o exported; The first amounts to about £800 or £900 St^s p Ann. which is received by His Ldp for his own private Use; The latter does rarely exceed £1400 in one year the greater part of which is paid by His Ldp's Agent to His Lieut Govern^r by way of an annual Sallary & the Remainder is paid to His Ldp himself. The People have been instructed & made to beleive that these Duties are collected illegally, they have been taught to look on it as a grievous Burthen & Oppression & to take Occasion thence to clamour against His Ldp's Govern^t Attempts have been made by the Lower Houses of Assembly to obtain a Sum of Money, or an Act for the Appointment of an Agent to bring the Matter to a Hearing before His Majesty in Council, but the Lord Proprietaries have always