

[Morris to Sharpe.]

Original.

Philadelphia 5th June 1756

Sir

I have Three of your Letters to acknowledge of the 23^d March, 24th April, and one since that not dated inclosing the Extract from the £40,000 Act. My answers woud have been much quicker, as well out of regard to the Importance of the contents of those Letters as from the Pleasure your kind correspondence has always given me, but I have been absent a long while and engaged in a most disagreeable work that of putting new and awkward Troops into order, and till my return here had not a moments Respite. I have the Pleasure to tell you that a Regiment of Eight Companies, 50 in a Company, under the Command of a famous New England Partisan one Mr. Clapham, is now on their March to Shamokin situate at the Conflux of the two main Branches of the Susquahannah, in order to build a Fort there for the Protection of such of the Indians as remain faithful to us, and for the Encouragement of those who join the French to quit their Service and come over to their old Friends, as many might have been forced into this measure and woud be glad to retreat if they could find a Place of Safety for their Families. The Water of the Sasquahannah is often very low and full of Falls for a Mile or Two at a Place called the Narrows, and the March in that Place is likewise very difficult and dangerous, but both men and Provisions are already got beyond those Falls and Narrows and there being no other considerable Interruptions or Difficulties in their future March I am in hopes this Service will be effected. Sir William Johnson has in several Letters acquainted Sr Charles Hardie that thro' the Interposition of the Six nations the Susquehannah Indians have laid down the Hatchet against us and will if desired join the Six Nations against the French, and that there may be time given to his Negotiations I have publishd a suspension of Hostilities for thirty days on the East side of Sasquahannah but not without having first sent four friendly Indians to the Delaware Towns on Sasquahannah to notify Sr Willm Johnsons negotiations to such as might be unacquainted with them and to find out the real state of the Dispositions of those Indians, who are returnd, have made a favourable Report of them & brought Messages from them for a Cessation of Arms & Permission to renew former Treaties.

I expect to hear in a few days from Onondago where I imagine Sr W^m Johnson is now holding a Treaty wth the Six Nations & Deputies of the Delawares & Shawanese on this matter. If we can divide the Indians it will be greatly to the advantage of the common Cause, and as it is reasonable to think