

Sir

Since the above by the Instigation as I am credibly inform'd of some of the better sort at the Church in the Forest last Sunday there was an Agreement made to raise a Body of about 200 men & take all my Recruits from me, this Town to be their rendezvous on Monday. Cap^t Orrick who commands a Company of Militia in the County came on Sunday evening with about twenty Horse the men arm'd with Clubs & gave me to understand that they expected the whole Body the next Day. The Captain was deputed by the rest to be their Spokesman who told me they were come in a peaceable Manner to demand their Servants & that if they could not have them by fair means they would have them by Foul.

It seems some of their Convict Servants were run away notwithstanding my posting up Advertisem^{ts} th^t I would not take any Convicts they would not believe me I gave them Liberty to examine my recruits they found none of their Servants & for the present the Storm is blown over. I leave the whole to y^r Excellency's Animadversion.

Baltimore 21st Aug^t

I am y^r Excell^{cy's} most obed^t
& most hum Serv^t S. Gardner

Original.

[Loudoun to Sharpe.]

Albany 20th August 1756—

Sir

I received last night accounts by which I apprehend that Oswego with all its Stores and Ammunition and the Train placed there is lost, The Garrison made Prisoners and our Naval power on the Lake destroyed.

I must put you on your Guard against every Ill Consequence of such an Unhappy Event and as you may now expect the weight of the French Indian Power on your Back I must caution you to put your Frontiers immediately in the best posture of Defence you are able as from the Condition and number of the Troops left to me when I came to my Command I can scarce hope to do more than to resist the French power in these Quarters.

Were my Hands strengthened to enable me to Act I would not despair of retrieving this Misfortune and to wrest out of the hands of the French this important Post that by a series of bad Circumstances has fall'n too easy a Prey to them.—

I must in the strongest manner and from motives of the most interesting nature demand your Assistance and that of your Province.