

Letter Bk. III instantly convene them & laying Your Ldps Lett^r before them exhort them to take such Measures as the present posture of Affairs requires. Instructions shall be also immediately sent to the Military & Civil Officers of every County to enlist Men for the Royal Americans agreeable to Your Lordship's Commands & nothing shall be wanting on my Part to prevail on the Assembly to defray that Expence but if I should in that particular be unsuccessful I shall take the Liberty to draw on your Ldp as I must advance the Money myself to the Officers to whom I shall send such Instructions. If no Officer from the American Regiments shall happen to be in these parts I will send what Levies I can get to Phil^a as Such an Embargo shall be laid on all outward-bound Vessels laden with Provisions as your Ldp directs & I shall always take the greatest pleasure in being able to execute any other Commands that your Ldp may think proper to signify to Y^r Ldp's &c—

[Sharpe to Col. Belt.]

Liber J. R.
& U. S.
p. 132 S^r

As some Advices which I have just received give me great Room to fear that a large Body of French and Indians will very shortly make a Descent on this Province, and endeavour to break up at once, all our Settlem^{ts} in the Western Parts of Frederick County, and as it is thought expedient and necessary to march a considerable number of the Militia to cover and protect the distant Inhabitants and on occasion to act in Conjunction with the Troops that have been raised and are posted at Fort Frederick, and other places beyond Conegocheige, I do hereby with the Advice of his Lordship's Council of State, order & require you as soon as possible to send from the Militia of your County a Detachment of 100 Men under the Command of a Captain, Lieutenant and Ensign to Fort Frederick, where they will be joined by another Detachment of the same number. After their Arrival at that Fort they will be supplied with provisions by the Commissary M^r Ross, and on their March thither the Officer must apply to the press masters for such provisions and Carriages as shall be necessary with which the press Masters are forthwith to furnish him on his presenting my warrant, and passing such Receipts as the Act of Assembly requires they may be supplied with some Arms and Ammunition by Captain Peter Butler of Frederick Town, but I would advise them to provide themselves with both before they march. You must see that every man takes with him a Blanket & Cloaths enough for a Month from their Arrival at Frederick Town before the Expiration of which Month they