

[Dinwiddie to Sharpe.]

Original.

Williamsburg Septem^r 2^d 1756.

Sir

I wrote you last Saturday by the Post, since that I received your Letter by Col^o Ludwell & remark its Contents, I have ordered Col^o Washington, to remove some of the Stores from fort Cumberland to Winchester, but by no means to abandon that fort, as such a Step would greatly encourage the Enemy, and if I be properly informed two hundred Men will defend it against one Thousand or more if they bring no Cannon against it, and I think it more than probable that next Spring an Expedition will be conducted against fort Du Quesne, so that the defending that Fortress this Winter, I think necessary & will be of great Service to all the Colonies to the Southward, if you agree with me in opinion, some Men from your Province to that Place will be very necessary.

I have no Letter from M^r Morris in regard to the Enemys taking fort Granville, but it's no more than might be expected from the inactive lethargick Supines of that Colony, or shall we ever be at ease till the Enemy is drove from the Ohio, they have committed many Cruelties in Augusta County, & I fear will continue their Barbarity, unless Pennsylvania, Maryland, & this Colony raise forces, and join in a Body to repell their force; our protecting the different frontiers only gives them the Advantage of invading us where we are weakest, and I fear they have very good Intelligence of all our Motions from some Villains among us.

I hope the Pennsylvania Assembly will do something handsome, now they have got a new Governor.

I am surpris'd your Assembly ordered the abandoning the fort you had built on Tonolloway Creek because it was five Miles without your Inhabitants. I am glad you have begun so good a Fort near Patoemack, which undoubtedly will be of great use, if they allow Men sufficient to garrison it. The excessive Frugality of the different Collonies is shameful, & far from good Oeconomy or self Preservation.

Lord Loudoun has wrote me strongly for recruits for the Royal Americans, but I am afraid I shall not be able to comply with his orders, but shall do all in my Power. I enclose you one of our Supply Bills for £40,000 which I conceive will answer your Purpose. I formerly sent you a Copy of the Light house Bill being passed here & lyes now with the King & Councell & will meet with the Royal Assent; if your Assembly will pass one similar thereto in case you shou'd have mislaid it, I send you inclos'd a ruf Copy thereof, and I doubt not you will agree with me the necessity thereof, as a fort is proposed to be built to mount twelve eighteen Pounders, which