

will be a Protection to the Trade of both Colonies from Privateers, several last War, came within the Capes & took several of our Vessels, please, press it on your Assembly, & write me their opinion thereon.

Your Letter of the 30th by the Express I received with the Melancholy Account of the Loss of Oswego, the Vessels on Lake Ontario, & the Train of Artillery lodged in that Fortress, which is confirmed by Lord Loudoun's Letter to me, and I think he complains that Affairs were in great disorder on his Arrival. The Loss of that important Place is extremely unlucky & if we don't succeed against Crown Point, its more than probable we will loose all the Indians, and very likely they will come down the Ohio, and invade these Colonies, we are in a bad Situation to repel their force, but it may be hoped that these Prospects may infuse a Spirit of resentment into our People, & do at last, what they should have begun with. I have sent for the Council to meet me to morrow to consult with them on the present Emergency, and if the Assembly are to meet I shall give you notice thereof. By my Instructions I am directed to grant Letters of Mark, or Comissions, for private Vessels of War, & no doubt you have such an Instruction, if not I think his Majesty's Declaration of War qualifies you to grant them, as it's the Duty of every person in Command to do every thing in their Power to distress the Enemy. I send you Copy of what I have from the Board of Admiralty, which relates only to the condemning Ships & Goods. I have granted one Comission Copy of the form I also inclose you.

It's impossible to say what the Assembly will do, but when met shall give you notice thereof, in the mean Time I think it absolutely necessary to urge the different Assemblies, to vote handsomely for the raising a considerable number of Men, and in Case of an Invasion on any one of them, that the whole should join in a Body to repel their Force.

I am extremely hurried in writing to the Gov^{rs} to the Southward must therefore leave of by assuring you I am with respects

Your Excellency's
Most obedient humble servant
Rob^t Dinwiddie—

[Hall to Sharpe.]

Baltimore Town 5th of Sept^r 1756.

Lower
House
Journal,
1754-57.
P. 344

Sir

Your Instructions of the 30th of August last came to hand the same Evening, and agreeable to said Orders we have