

[Sharpe to John Sharpe.]

Letter Bk. III

15<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1756—

D<sup>r</sup> B<sup>r</sup>

My last Lett<sup>r</sup> to B<sup>r</sup> John & Y<sup>r</sup>self was dated the 13<sup>th</sup> of July at Fort Frederick a place of Defence that I was constructing on the Western Frontiers of the Province at the Distance of about 125 Miles from this place. As soon as some Barracks were finished for the Accomodation of the Garrison; & the other Works raised enough to cover the Men & to give the Officers an Idea of what I would have done, I took my Leave of them & returned hither the 16<sup>th</sup> of last month having appointed that Day for publishing His Majesty's Declaration of War which I had received by Lord Loudoun. Since that time a Party of Indians has advanced into Pensilv<sup>a</sup> reduced one of the Forts that Governor Morris & the Commissioners built last year on the Frontiers of that province & made the Garrison consisting of 25 Men Prisoners. Thence they made a Descent into this Province & cut off some People that lived more than 12 Miles on this Side our Fort. This Accident has so terrified our Back Inhabitants that Hundreds of them have abandoned their plantations & one of our most flourishing German Settlements is on the Brink of being entirely broke up, beside the two Companies belonging to the Fort I have ordered a Detachment of 200 from the Militia to assist & protect them but I am afraid that even this Reinforcement will not prevail on them to stand their Ground, so deep an Impression has the Cruelty of Indians made on their minds, & so little did these People deserve the favourable Opinion that we heretofore used to entertain of them. The Reduction of Fort Granville in Pens<sup>a</sup> as I have above related has been attended with dreadful Consequences in that Province, the Inhabitants of a whole County that bordered on Us are retired for the most part over Susquehanna, from easy Circumstances they are at once reduced to a State of Beggary & extreme Want & by their Flight our Northern Frontier is left exposed for 30 Miles in length. thus will these Colonies feel the Consequences of each others Remissness & vain will be the Resolution or Efforts of any one of them to put a Stop to the Devastations of these Barbarians; they must as they have been often told act in Conjunction & exert their united Strength to find the Enemy Employment in their own Country & to the Westward of these Colonies but alas a Defensive War is the utmost that any of our Assemblies will think of or provide for & such a War with Indians will inevitably prove our Ruin. Governor Denny upon his Arrival gave me some hopes that his Assembly would grant a very considerable Sum of Money & raise Men for a Western Expe-