

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

26<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1756.S<sup>r</sup>

I now do myself the Honour to make my Acknowledgments for your Lett<sup>rs</sup> dated the 28<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>st</sup> & the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst. I am glad to find Your Accounts from Major Lewis are so favourable & that by the measures you have prudently taken the Defection of the Cherokees has been prevented. Our Interest with the Northern Indians is said to decline fast & I am apt to beleive the Report is not without foundation. The Gazettes bring you as particular Accounts as I have received of the Surrendry of Oswego, neither have I had any other Advice of the motions of the Provincial Troops or the four Regiments under the Command of Lord Loudoun than what the publick papers bring us. We are told that Col<sup>o</sup> Clapham is marched from Shamokin for Venango with a Body of the Pens<sup>a</sup> Rangers, tis reported that a Set of People there are much offended at these proceedings of their Military Officers who were only raised to act on the defensive & to protect the Inhabitants of that Province. Our People also seem to be I think for Pacific Measures for they have been now met a Fortnight & have hitherto declined appropriating any of the Money that has been already granted for His Majesty's Service. I am told they will proceed to Business very shortly & that they intend to begin by calling me to Account for directing a Fort to be made with Stone & Earth instead of Stoccadoes & for intimating to them that they ought to use Dispatch if they would discover any Zeal for His Majesty's Service. In Consequence of the Earl of Loudoun's Lett<sup>r</sup> I have enlisted more than 50 Men for him, I hope to make them a hundred let the Result of our Assembly's Meeting be what it will but I think such a number cannot be raised in this Province for less than £300 St<sup>s</sup> & £3 St<sup>s</sup> a man is much more than the Officers of the Royal American Regiment find themselves at Liberty to give. We have at this time 200 Militia on our Western Frontiers beside the Troops that are employed in building Fort Frederick I would gladly comply with your Request by ordering a Detachment to Fort Cumberland but really 'tis not in my power, I have desired the Assembly to make an Augmentation to our Forces but dare not entertain very sanguine hopes of Success. I have also recommended to their Consideration the Affair of a Light House but cannot learn how my Message was received I am much obliged by Y<sup>r</sup> kindness in sending Copies of the Instructions sent you from the Lds of the Admiralty & am &c.