

Letter Bk. I. place, & the other Petty Forts that have been built on the Frontiers of these Provinces. I forgot to tell you in my last Lett. that the Death of M^r Clagett had given me an Opportunity of presenting M^r M^cPherson to W^m & Mary Parish in Charles Co^{ty}, As His Ldp was some time ago pleased to send me an Instruction to provide for that Gentⁿ I hope this Step of mine is agreeable to His Ldp's Intention & that it will also meet with your Approbation I am:

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

Novem^r 4th 1756—

S^r

Col^o Lee having just acquainted me with his Intention to pay you a Visit very shortly I trouble him with this to inform you that Col^o Steven has lately sent hither a Person from Fort Cumberland who was sent thither as a Spy by an Officer of a Detachment of 160 French & Indians who were ordered from Fort Du Quesne to annoy the Frontier Inhabitants of one of these Provinces or to make an Attempt on Fort Cumberland if they should on Examination find the Reduction of that place practicable. I presume Col^o Steven has communicated to you what the Fellow said concerning the Enemy's Strength behind us at present & of their Intention to assemble & march a considerable Body of Troops into one of these Colonies next Spring. I cannot by this, but I will by the next Opportunity send you a Copy of the Prisoners Examination &c.

Original.

[Dinwiddie to Sharpe.]

Williamsburg Nov^r 12th 1756.

Sir

I receiv'd Your Letter by Col^o Lee. I shall be glad to hear the Information of the Person sent you by Col^o Stephens; tho' from all Accts they cannot spare 160 men from Fort Du Quesne, at same Time I fancy they may make an Attempt on Fort Cumberland; have therefore order'd Col^o Washington to call a Council of Officers, to consult if they think it may be properly defended, in case the Enemy shou'd attack it; if not, to send all the Ammunition &c. to Winchester, & abandon Fort Cumberland, destroying every Thing that may be of use to the Enemy—I have not yet receiv'd their Report.

I doubt not in the Summer they will march a Body of Troops against these Colonies, I therefore think it our Duty to be