

Letter Bk. I. His Ldp has no farther Commands for us Governors Dinwiddie Dobbs & Myself intend to set off for Annapolis next Friday Morning. The Assembly is to meet there the Monday following, if the Small Pox rages less there than it has lately done perhaps we shall be able to get a House but if the Members decline coming thither for fear of that Distemper I shall with the Advice of your Ldps Council prorogue the Assembly for a few Days & then appoint them to meet at Baltimore Town in Case the Small Pox should not be at that place. As a considerable part of the £40,000 remains still unexpended I hope I shall be able to persuade the Assembly to furnish the

p. 264 Quota that His Lordship requires of them (which indeed I think no large one & I hope too they will raise the Additional Supplies that I shall ask by such means as will be agreeable to Your Ldp tho I am afraid that M<sup>r</sup> Denny's being pressed by Ld Loudoun to recede from some Points that he has been insisting on with his Assembly will have an ill Effect on the Assemblies of the other Provinces. As to the Question between Gov<sup>r</sup> Denny & the Assembly whether the Proprietaries Quit Rents & unimproved Lands should be subjected to a Tax I hear it is to be waved for the present but the Assembly have deputed two Members of their House to go to England to make Application to Parliament & to endeavour to get the Sense of the Legislature of Great Britain on the Matters about which their Governors & they have been unhappily contending. It was reported here yesterday that some Indians whom We look upon as our Friends are come into a Fort which the Troops in the pay of this Province have been building at a Place called Shamokin (at the Forks of Susquehanna about 100 Miles North-West from this Place) & declare that the French & Indians at Venango to the Number of 800 are making Preparations to make a Descent on Shamokin as soon as the Weather will permit. The Garrison at present there does not consist of more than 200 Men but I hope if the Enemy have really any such Design it will be reinforced before they can carry it into Execution. I shall embrace the first opportunity of Conveyance that offers to acquaint Your Ldp with my Success with the Assembly & with every Occurrence which may be worthy your Ldp's Notice in the mean time I remain My Ld Y<sup>r</sup> Ldp's

mo faithful & mo devoted Serv<sup>t</sup>

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[Sharpe to Calvert.]

24<sup>th</sup> March 1757.

Sir

As I am obliged to wait on Lord Loudoun this Morning & am afraid that I shall scarcely find time before I leave this place