

Letter Bk.III of the Disposition that was to be made; They have been told that your Assembly have refused to make Provision for any Troops that may be transported thence to Carolina & as they are unwilling to be thought more tractable than their Neighbours they have assured me that His Ldp's Orders concerning the Disposition of our Troops shews that he is little acquainted with the situation of Fort Cumberland & the Frontiers of Maryland & that he cannot reasonably expect or desire the Inhabitants of this Province to support Men to garrison that place, but being still in hopes that an Expedition will be undertaken to the Westward they have left it to Colonel Stanwix or the officer that may be appointed to command on such an Occasion to draw out of the Province as many of the 500 when raised as I shall agree to part with. Inclosed I send you a Copy of a Message which was sent to me a few Days ago by Sixty two Cherokee Indians who were then at Fort Frederick, you will observe that they desire me to notify their Arrival to you & they hope I presume that you will give them an Invitation to Pensilvania. On my recommending it to the Assembly to make some Provision for their Encouragement & Support during their Stay among us, they have desired me to send them a small present & to have them supplied with Provisions & such Necessaries as they may stand in need of but as they have declined appropriating any sum of money to their use except One hundred pounds for a Present & have on former occasions convinced me & many others that a Vote of Credit is not much to be depended on, I am afraid I shall get no body to victual them & that they will not meet with such a Reception here as Gov^r Dinwiddie has given them reason to expect.

[Sharp to Dinwiddie.]

May 9th 1757—

Sir

In my Letter of the 5th Inst, I told you that the Assembly of this Province had at length framed a Bill whereby I was impowered to augment the Troops in the Pay of this Province to 500 Men but that they were very averse to having any of them posted at Fort Cumberland, I presume this arises from an apprehension that if they once undertake to support that place they shall never afterwards be able to get quit of the Burthen & from a Suspicion that the Expence of furnishing the Indians who may declare in our favour & come thither with Necessaries would fall entirely on this Province was an officer of ours to have the Chief Command there, but whatever be their Reasons they have restrained me from posting any of