

expect to have our French in two months & a half at farthest;  
A Duplicate of this being fixed upon one of the Posts of our  
Blockade the Day above named

Con. Villier.

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

Letter Bk. I.  
p. 56

Aug<sup>st</sup> 8. 1754.

In obedience to your Ldps Instructions I have writ to y<sup>r</sup>  
Ldps Sec<sup>y</sup> particularly concerning your Ldps private Affairs &  
the late publick Transactions in y<sup>r</sup> Ldp's Province to be sub-  
mitted to y<sup>r</sup> Ldp who will not I hope condemn any part of my  
Conduct which I have now taken the Liberty to make known,  
herewith I present to your Ldp the grateful Address of the  
Trustees of the School y<sup>r</sup> Ldp is pleased to encourage in  
Talbot C<sup>ty</sup> & I have also obeyed y<sup>r</sup> Ldps Orders by trans-  
mitting by this Conveyance an account of the number of Per-  
sons that compose the inferiour Branches of the Legislature of  
this province & also the number of Offices held under y<sup>r</sup> Ldps  
Govern<sup>t</sup> specifying the yearly value of each as near as can be  
learnt. I also take the Liberty to inclose your Ldp a Plan that  
was proposed by the several Comm<sup>rs</sup> from the neighbouring  
Colonies at Albany lately for forwarding a Union between the  
several Govern<sup>ts</sup> in order the more easily to defend his Majesty's  
American Dominions against the French or any other hostile  
forces; which Scheme is to be laid before the Legislature of  
the several Provinces at their next Meeting for their Amend-  
ment or Approbation; but it has been intimated to me that  
the Gov<sup>r</sup> of New York has already without tarrying for the  
Opinion of Assemblies transmitted a Copy thereof to the  
Board of Trade for their Honours Consideration. p. 57

Our Commissioners are just returned & inform us that the  
Indians who met them at Albany to the number of about 300  
returned well satisfied with the Presents & Treatment they had  
received from the several Comm<sup>rs</sup> & before their Departure  
after their Receipt of the Presents they took the Opportunity  
of a publick Entertainment to express their Acknowledgments  
to y<sup>r</sup> Ldp & this Province & desired your Ldp would deign to  
accept from them the inclosed Belt of Wampum in token of  
their Affection & Love. In my Letter to y<sup>r</sup> Ldp's Sec<sup>y</sup> dated  
the 3<sup>d</sup> of May I took notice that the French had about a week  
before that time made themselves Masters of a small Fort  
which the Virginians had erected on a Branch of the River  
Ohio, after which Accident they that retreated from the fort &  
another party from Virginia composing about 300 Men under p. 58  
the Command of Col<sup>o</sup> Washington encamped themselves or