

prevent any Thing further to be done; but if I can obtain a Supply from our Assembly, I wou'd propose raising our Numb^r as before & to be at Wills's Creek in Feb^{ry} to be ready for Action before the French can be reinforc'd from Quebeck, as I understand they cannot come down the rivers till the end of Aprill or Beginning of May—Pray under our present bad situation & Disappointm^t be so kind to give me y^r candid Advice how to Act, for I really am oppress'd with Concern on the Conduct of our Assembly.

I remain with very great Esteem & just regard

Y^r Excellency's
Most obedient hble Serv^t
Rob^t Dinwiddie

P. S. If a few of your Men were ordered to Wills's Creek to join the other Forces may probably facilitate their undertakings either in building a Fort or other Services.

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[Sharpe to Calvert.]

15th of Sept^r 1754 transmitted also by Capt Creagh—

S^r

In my Letter of the 2^d I made known to you our general Expectations from the Virginia Assembly who were then convened: since which time I have been informed by Governor Dinwiddie that all his Endeavours to incite them to advance a Sum of Money for the Expedition have proved unsuccessful. Soon after their meeting it seems they voted £20,000 for the Service but in preparing a Bill for that purpose they inserted a Clause for Discharging £2500 which had been advanced by the Speaker & several Members to the Attorney Genl. at his Embarkation for England. This was look't on by the Govern^r & Council as a most extravagant Requisition, The Bill was accordingly rejected & the Governor thereupon thought proper to prorogue them to the 17th of October in hopes of receiving by that time some farther Instructions from home for his Conduct, if not Men or Money for the Service. This Accident has removed all thoughts of any thing's being done or attempted against the French this Summer. The most our Forces can execute will be the building a Fort to secure a Pass thro the Mountains which might facilitate our Operations next Spring, this I beleive will be the Business of the three independant Companies from New York & South Carolina amounting to about 260 Men. The North Carolina Companies are all excepting 40 or 50 Men disbanded; the Money that was granted for their Subsistance being nearly expended. & the 300 Vir-

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