

**Letter Bk. III** Inhabitants & lest the Earl of Loudoun should not know how to dispose of them in the best manner for His Majesty's Service or our security they have in a Bill which they have been employed more than two months in framing particularly specified where the men shall range or patroll & lye in Ambush & have forbid them to move from the Stations or posts that they have been pleased to allot them on any account whatever. They are much surprized at the Earl of Loudouns insisting that the Troops in the Pay of this Province shall be under his Command & will immediately on His Lordship's Arrival here undertake to convince him of the Impropriety of his Requisition. My Lord on the contrary seems to hope that they will at length be brought to Reason but I am afraid his Ldp will find that his Hopes are without foundation. I suppose the Event will be that I shall find myself under a necessity of obliging three or four Companies of Militia to march & serve on our Frontiers instead of the Soldiers that are now there & in this Expectation I have already ordered that Number to hold themselves in readiness to move on the first notice. I take this occasion of thanking you for the Minutes taken at the Indian Treaty & the other papers which M<sup>r</sup> Peters sent me some time ago by your order &c—

[Sharpe to Loudoun.]

29<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1757—

My Ld

I now take the Liberty to send your Ldp a Copy of the Military Part as it is called of the Bill which our Assembly have been so long employed about & which they were pleased to send to the Gent<sup>n</sup> of the Upper House four or five Days after I had communicated to them the Contents of Your Ldps last Letter. I am apt to think that this Specimen of their Performances will shew your Ldp that they are at least as wrong-headed as I have ever represented them. The Bill will be returned to them to morrow with a Negative upon which they will very probably desire to be dismissed but I shall not be prevailed on to comply with any such Request untill your Ldp's Business will permit you to undertake your intended Journey. Your Ldp cannot help observing that they have not only restrained the Soldiers Service to a particular Spot but that they have also studied to lay the Officers under every possible Hardship or Difficulty, beside this they reduce the Captain's pay from 12/6 Currency p Day to 10/ which according to our present Excha. is not more than 6/ stg while They themselves have the Conscience to receive for serving their Country in Assembly as they call it at the Rate of 14/ a