

Day each besides Travelling Expences so that the Taxes which have been already & will be levied on the People of this Province to pay the Assembly for sitting since the war was first begun in America amounts to at least a fifth part of the Money that has been granted here for His Majesty's Service which Consideration alone is a sufficient Reason why every Person among us should desire to see the Parliament of Great Britain interpose & compel us to pay towards carrying on the War as much as should be judged our reasonable Quota. I hope Your Ldp will have left Albany before this can be dld, & that I shall very soon have, the Pleasure of seeing Your Ldp at Annapolis. I am &c

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

4th Dec^r 1757—

Sir

I beg your pardon for delaying so long to acknowledge the Receipt of your two Letters dated the 22^d of Oct^r & the 2^d of last month & hope you will excuse my seeming neglect when you know how it must be accounted for. I have ever since I writ to you last been in continual hopes that the next Day Proceedings of our Assembly would enable me to give you some certain Information concerning their Intentions or at least afford me some Room to guess what would be the Issue of our Meeting. I am however still at almost as great a Loss as I was two months ago & know very little more for certain than that the Gentⁿ have signified to the Earl of Loudoun thro my hands that they condemn the Disposition which he was pleased to make of the Maryland Forces last Summer tho it is entirely owing to that Disposition of them that our Frontier Inhabitants have dwelt in perfect security while several of your People & a great Number of those who lived in Pensilv^a have been cut off or captivated by our Common Enemy. Col^o Hunter's sudden Departure hence will not give me time to write you a particular account of our Transactions & Correspondence since we met but I shall endeavour to send you such a one before you embark as it might possibly afford you some little Amusement after you shall have turned your Back on us poor Governors & all American Assemblies. About 10 Days ago a Bill was indeed sent to the Upper House for reducing the Men in the Pay of this province to 300 & for restraining the Service of those to the Distance or Space of about 15 Miles on our Frontiers viz between Fort Frederick Conegocheague & the Temporary Line. None of them were to be marched beyond the North Mountain on any Account whatever nor to obey any orders that should be sent