

[Sharpe to Stanwix.]

Letter Bk. III

17th of Decem^r 1757—

Sir

I am now to inform you that the Assembly of this Province broke up Yesterday without having made the least Provision for the Support of any of the Troops that have been & still are posted at Fort Cumberland & Fort Frederick. In my Letter dated the 21st of Oct^r I advised you of the Resolution the Lower House of Assembly had then taken & this Resolution they adhered to notwithstanding His Ldp's Letter or any thing that could be offered to divert them therefrom. As the Bill which they sent to the Upper House seemed to be purposely crowded with every thing that tended to cramp the Service (which you will I beleive be convinced of on perusal of the inclosed Specimen of it) the Gentⁿ of the Upper House rejected it without any hesitation & the Burgesses would not afterwards be prevailed on to frame any other Bill whatever. This being the Case I have ordered four Companies of Militia to hold themselves in readiness to march on the first notice, & after they have served a Month or two I shall order four other Companies to relieve them & either Capt Alex^r or Capt Ioshua Beall (whom I shall forthwith appoint Majors of Militia) will be always at Fort Frederick to command them. It remains with you to draft or to do with the Men that are now at Fort Cumberland & Fort Frederick as you shall think fit. I suppose they amount altogether to about 430 effective Men; of these I presume 250 or 300 are good Men engaged for Life or a long Term. Most of the Soldiers in Capt Dagworthy's Company & some of the others were enlisted for His Majesty's Service in general the Rest only engaged to serve in the Maryland Forces. They are all paid to the 10th of Oct^r & are pretty well cloathed. Those of them that may be received into the Royal American Regiment will I suppose expect their Arrears of Pay from the Officers into whose Companies they may be drafted & to the Rest their respective Captains will give Certificates to shew that they have served this Province without Pay from the 10th of Oct^r to the time they shall be discharged which may perhaps procure them their Arrears of Pay hereafter when our Assembly shall be brought to pursue different Measures from those which they have lately taken. I shall not order the Militia to march till I receive Your answer & it will probably be ten or twelve Days afterwards before they can reach Fort Frederick. I shall issue Press Warrants & put it in their own Power to supply themselves with Provisions but as they are in general very ill provided with Arms they must be furnished out of