

Letter Bk. I. Quotas towards carrying on an Offensive War, & I think the Conduct of our Assembly at this time will shew that nothing is to be expected from them without Compulsion. Your Ldp will I am persuaded be much astonished at a Proposal to give up a Fort & a Tract of Country more than 60 Miles in Extent to the Enemy by a Law yet that is actually proposed to be done by the Bill of which I have been speaking as the Extract thereof which I have quoted manifestly shews the Service of the 300 Men thereby proposed to be raised being absolutely confined to the North Mountain & the Country that lies on this side Fort Frederick I hope I shall be able in a very few Days to send M^r Calvert a Copy of the whole Bill with a more particular Account of the Assembly's Proceedings during the
 p. 320 Session but as I have this Inst^{ant} an opportunity of writing I embrace it that Your Ldp might receive the most early Advice of what has happened.

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

21st Dec^r 1757.

Sir

I intimated to you in my Letter dated the 1st of Oct^r that I was very apprehensive the Assembly of this Province would insist on our Troops being withdrawn from Fort Cumberland & that they would if possible contrive to lay me under greater Difficulties than I had ever before experienced. I am now to inform you that my Fears at that time were too well founded & that instead of withdrawing our Forces from that place the Gent^l have upon the most mature Deliberation refused in effect to provide for the Support of any during the ensuing Winter. This being the Case most of our Men will I suppose be drafted into the R A R^t & the Rest disbanded forthwith. Col^o Stanwix is to take proper measures for the preservation of Fort Cumberland & I am to have the honour of defending Fort Frederick & protecting our Frontier Inhabitants with Militia till we can fall on some better Scheme. This is all the Acco^t that I can just now give you of our late Transactions & present situation for some few particulars I must beg leave to refer you to a Friend of mine that has taken a Resolution to pay you a Visit in order to satisfy you that there was no foundation for the Rumour which prevailed here some time since concerning him. He has I beleive in a few Days which he spent with me at Annapolis heard more about the Proceedings of the People that I have to deal with than I ever wish to hear again; It behoves you to find him better Entertainment at Williamsburg & you will I hope for the Reputation of the Virg^a Air as well as to oblige me send him back to us in the Spring in the most perfect health.