

[Sharpe to Loudoun.]

Letter Bk. III

. Dec. 22^d 1757

My Ld

I am sorry to inform y^r Ldp that the Gentlemen of our Lower House of Assembly would not be prevailed on to make any Alterations in the Bill which they had prepared for the Support of 300 men to range on the Frontiers of this Province 60 miles on this side Fort Cumberland & that I have been at length obliged to put an End to the Session. When all their other Business was dispatched they were pleased to present the inclosed Address & to desire me to send it to your Lordship together with a Copy of their Bill in full Confidence that your Ldp will be thereby convinced of their Zeal & earnest Desire to promote His Majesty's Service as their Clerk was ordered to deliver me a Copy as soon as possible I declined writing to your Ldp till it was finished but I immediately dispatched an Express to Col^o Stanwix to advise him of what had happened that he might take proper measures for the future preservation of Fort Cumberland I have likewise ordered a Company of Militia to Fort Frederick & have three more ready to march upon the Return of my Express from Lancaster. As the Gentlemen in the Close of their Address intimated to me that nothing I could say would induce them to proceed on any Business at that time I did not think it worth while to protract the sessions an hour purely to give it a particular answer especially as I must in doing so have been led to make some Remarks on their Conduct that would have given them great Offence (as I well knew from Experience) but could not at such a time be productive of any good Consequences. Your Ldp will perceive what a Use they have made of Part of a Letter which I laid before the late Lower House of Assembly about 6 months ago when I was pressing them to grant a Sum of Money for building a strong Fort at the Confluence of the two Branches of Potowmack about 15 miles on this side Fort Cumberland. The Gentⁿ of that House seemed convinced of the Expediency of such a Forts being built tho they declined giving any Money for that Purpose & I beleive every Body beside those that compose our present House will think that such a Step or proposal would be at this time more reasonable than to give up a Fort that is already built & a Tract of Country 60 miles in Extent to His Majesty's Enemies by a Law. As the Gentⁿ of the Upper House apprehended that they were invidiously & unjustly refected on in the abovementioned Address. They thought it incumbent on them to resent such a proceeding in as publick a manner; & therefore desired me to present an Address of theirs to your Lordship together with the other. And