

Letter Bk. III erick are gone out with a Detachment from the Virginia Regiment to fall on one of the Shawanese Towns that lye below Fort Du Quesne. By a Letter which I have lately received from Fort Cumberland I am informed that a Sergeant of the Virginia Corps & a Catawba Indian who were carried away Prisoners last Novem^r are returned & say that when they were at Fort Du Quesne in the winter the Garrison of that Place did not exceed 150 Men, but that the French expected to be joined by a considerable Body of Regular Troops & a great Number of Indians from different Nations early in the Spring, & that they would then make an Attempt on Fort Cumberland, or advance into one of these Colonies. tho I hope that the French will find themselves unable to undertake an Expedition of that Sort this Summer I have taken such measures as would be expedient if they should carry such a Plan into execution & if certain Intelligence shall be given me of the Approach of any considerable Body of the Enemy towards either of these Colonies I shall repair to the Frontiers & support Colonel Stanwix in the best manner that I am able with the Troops & Militia of this Province. &c

[Sharpe to Edmund Atkins.]

June 1st 1757

Sir

Having heard that you are expected at Winchester in a few Days to hold a Treaty with the Indians that are come to Virginia by Governor Dinwiddies Invitation & to make them a Present I embrace an opportunity of Conveyance that offers to send you a Copy of a Message that I lately received from a Party of the Cherokees that came to Fort Frederick on the Frontiers of this Province. As our Assembly was sitting I laid the Message before them & they thereupon desired me to send them an Answer together with a small Present. Agreeable to the Request of the Assembly & of the Cherokees I appointed two Gentlemen to meet them at Fort Frederick & to hold a Treaty with them imagining that you was e'er this returned to S^o Carolina. As His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you & S^r Will^m Johnson sole Agents for Indian Affairs on the Continent I think it incumbent on me to advise you of what has been done with regard to those Indians in this Govern^t & I have for your better Information inclosed a Copy of the Report that was made by the abovementioned Gent^l on their Return from the Fort.