

[Sharpe to Loudoun.]

Letter Bk. III

22<sup>d</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1758

My Ld

As I could not be favoured with Your Ldp's answer to my last Letter or Your Opinion on the Bill which I was desired to send Your Ldp a Copy of before the Day on which our Assembly was to have met I was advised by the Gentlemen of the Council to prorogue them to the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst & since that to prolong the time of their Prorogation to the 6<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>y</sup> when I shall lay before them a Copy of Your Lordship's Letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> of Decem<sup>r</sup> & endeavour to obtain the necessary Supplies for the Support of the Troops that are at Fort Cumberland & elsewhere on the Frontiers of this Province. Soon after I had the pleasure yesterday to receive Your Ldps Letters I wrote to Capt Dagworthy & other officers of the Maryland Forces, & gave them some room to expect that both they & the Men under their Command will receive all the pay that might be due to them when the Assembly shall have again met but I declined making them any Promise lest it should be suspected that I had received Instructions from Your Ldp to do so; I have likewise wrote to the Person that has hitherto victualled our Troops & desired him to continue to Supply them with provisions as well those that are at Fort Frederick as them that are posted at Fort Cumberland being convinced by Your Ldp's Letter that you will not Let him be a Sufferer in case the Assembly should refuse to make him any Satisfaction. As I am throughly persuaded that our Gentlemen would never be brought to augment the Maryland Forces again on any Terms whatever if I was now to reduce their Number, I shall not since Your Ldp is pleased to leave that matter entirely to me, make any Alteration or Reduction till I have once more tried whether the Assembly will come into reasonable measures or not, but if the Gentlemen of the Lower House should when they meet again persist in the Resolution they lately took, I shall immediately advise Col<sup>o</sup> Stanwix thereof that with Your Ldp's Approbation he might thereupon give orders for three compleat Companies of 100 Men each to be formed out of the best of our Soldiers who with their proper Officers might remain at Fort Cumberland as long as your Ldp shall think proper to support them, while some Companies of Militia take possession of & garrison Fort Frederick in the stead of those of our Men that may be disbanded.