

already given, or to what I told you when you were lately at Annapolis but since your Men or most of them persist in their Refusal to march I hereby command and enjoyn you forthwith to certifie to the next Magistrate the Names of all those that refused to march unless they will now obey your Orders, and I do moreover command you to proceed without Delay to Fort Frederick with such of your Officers and Men as should be willing to march tho' they should be no more than ten or even a less Number. you will not I hope regard the idle and false Reports of some discontented, disaffected, or dastardly People or make them an Excuse from pursuing the Orders given you by your Commanding Officer: if the People have (as 'tis said) been made to believe that if you decline sending to a Magistrate the Names of those that refuse to march they will from that Circumstance escape with Impunity they will find themselves deceived, for since my Orders are issued I must insist on the Law's being obeyed, and I flatter myself you will not hereafter fail to do your Duty, especially when you are assured that none of the Men of whom your Company consists will therefrom receive the least Benefit. I am &c.

Liber J. R.
& U. S.
p. 223

To Captain Peregrine Browne

H: S:

[Sharpe to Colvill.]

Letter Bk. III

28th Jan^y 1758

My Lord

I am favoured with your Letter dated the 14th of Novem^r whereby you were pleased to advise me of your being appointed to command All His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in N America & to desire a Supply of Sailors & Land men from this Province. I hope your Ldp will believe that if it had been in my power I should have most readily complied with your Requisition but really My Lord it is absolutely impossible to get a Number of Seamen here at this time by any means whatever. Our Trade except to Great Britain is as the Assembly have expressed themselves on this occasion very inconsiderable & employs but a few small Vessels; the Trade to Great Britain is carried on by Ships that are sent hither annually from British Merchants & it has happened during the present War that many of the Seamen who navigated those from Europe have been either impressed on their Arrival within the Capes of Virginia or have travelled to the northward & engaged in Privateering soon after they had brought their Vessels into Port, & at this time two Vessels bound to England remain here for want of Hands tho' their Cargoes have been on board some Months. With Regard to