

[Sharpe to Loudoun.]

Letter Bk. III

2^d of March 1758.

My Ld

An Express to General Webb calling on me in his Way to N York I embrace the Opportunity to inform Your Ldp that a few Days after I laid before our Assembly the Letter which you were pleased to favour me with the 30th of Decem^r the Gentⁿ of the Lower House passed a Vote for supporting 400 men half of them to be at Your Ldp's Disposal if you would both pay & victual them in case they were carried out of the Province but the next Day this Vote was reassumed & it was then resolved that they would keep up 300 Men & no more during the approaching Summer. Before a Bill could be framed in Consequence of this Resolution I communicated to them Your Ldp's Letter of the 13th of Feb^y which I had just received & pressed them in the most earnest manner to comply with Your Requisition. What their final Result on this will be I do not as yet know for certain; They may perhaps at this time to save Appearances pass a Vote for the Number of Men that Your Lordship demands but when they prepare a Bill for their Support such Proposals will I am persuaded be made for raising the money as neither the Upper House nor I can with honour agree to, & such Concessions be insisted on as we cannot make without rendering the Govern^t contemptible & suffering dangerous Innovations in our Constitution.

A Doctrine having been industriously propagated among our Troops upon the Conclusion of our last Session by a Member of the Lower House as I am well informed that as the Assembly had broke up without making any Provision for their Support they were of Course disbanded & no longer subject to the Command of any Military Officer whatever, I thought it my Duty as soon as I was advised thereof to order two Companies of Militia to the Frontiers that in Case such Discourses should have the Effect that was intended they might be on the Spot ready to garrison Fort Frederick or to be otherwise disposed of as the Officer commanding there should think proper; but no sooner was it known that such orders were issued than every method was taken by some of the members of the Lower House to dissuade & discourage those Companies from marching. Having failed however in this Attempt as well as in that upon the Soldiers, they are I am told about to draw up a Remonstrance against the orders that were given to the Captains of the two Companies above-mentioned with a view of biassing the Juries that might be impanelled when a few of the militia that were refractory & refused to march are tried at our next Provincial Court for Disobeying Orders. The principal Argument on which they