

Letter Bk. III rely is that as the Militia are not by our Law obliged to march unless in time of actual Invasion they cannot be compelled to garrison a Fort or to serve in Arms if there is not an Apparent Enemy within the Limits of the Province as to the Ravages that have been committed on our Frontiers for these three years they cannot it seems be properly termed Invasions but only Incursions. Such My Lord being the Reasonings of the Majority in our Lower House of Assembly I leave your Ldp to judge of their present Disposition, for my own part I despair of seeing any Good proceed from their Councils, & believe I shall find myself under a necessity of proroguing them before I can receive Your Lordship's farther Commands; In that Case I will immediately give orders for 300 of our best Men to be formed into three Companies & the Rest to be discharged; to prevent Desertions I must at the same time give the Captains Leave to draw on me for some of the Pay that shall be due to their respective Companies which will amount to a considerable Sum none having been issued to them by the Provincial Agents since the 8th of Oct^r I hope therefore Your Ldp will be so kind as to send me some farther Instructions concerning this matter as soon as possible.

[Sharpe to Stanwix.]

4th of March 1758.

D^r S^r

M^r Clark having informed me that he is about to dispatch an Express to Lancaster I embrace the opportunity to acquaint you that All the Proceedings of our Lower House of Assembly since they met the 13th of Feb^y serve only to confirm me in the opinion that I entertained when I writ to you the 22^d of Jan^y Having spent a few Days in perusing the Letter that the Earl of Loudoun sent me the 30th of Dec^r they passed a Vote for supporting 400 Men during the approaching Summer half of whom were to be stationed according to their old Plan & the Rest to be at the Disposal of the Earl of Loudoun upon Condition that the whole Expence of supporting them should be defrayed by His Ldp in Case of their being ordered out of the Province. A Day or two afterwards the House reassumed their Vote & then it was Resolved that the Number of Troops to be kept up should be only 300. Before a Bill could be framed in Consequence of this Resolution I received & laid before them another Letter of His Ldp's dated the 13th of Feb^y & requiring them to provide for the Support or Pay at least of an Additional Number of 400 men over & above the five Companies that are at present in the Service of this