

Resolution that they would enter on no new Business which^{Letter Bk. III} laid me under a necessity of proroguing them as I have already hinted. This being the Case I must leave it to you to take such Steps for the Preservation of Fort Cumberland as you shall think fit, for as I have never been authorized to draw upon any one for money to pay those men that are now there & that have garrisoned that place during the Winter I cannot venture to make myself answerable to the Officers for any especially as the Earl of Loudoun at whose Instance I have encouraged them to keep their men together till this time has no longer the Chief Command in America. This I am advised of by a Letter that I received two Days ago from M^r Pitt who insists on my convening the Assembly of this Province again without Delay & enjoins me to urge them in the most pressing & importunate manner to raise for the Service of the ensuing Campaign & to provide for the Payment of as large a Body of Troops as they can afford to act in Conjunction with such Forces as are to be employed in carrying on offensive measures to the Westward under the Command of Brigadier General Forbes. Altho I have in fact already complied with the Tenor of this Letter the Earl of Loudoun's late Demand being very similar to that which is now made by M^r Pitt I shall meet the Assembly once more & give them another opportunity if they are not absolutely blind to their own Interest, of contributing to the Success of the next Campaign, but at the same time I think it my Duty to tell you that my Expectations from this Step are as small as possible. I should be much obliged to you for favouring me with an Answer & advising me of the Resolution that you shall come to in Consequence of this Letter.

[Gen. Abercromby to Sharpe.]

New York March 15 1758

Liber J. R.
& U. S.
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Sir

By circular Letters from M^r Secretary Pitt bearing Date at Whitehall Dec^r 30th 1757, to all his Majesty's Governors on the Continent of North America from Pensilvania inclusive to the southward, which Letters arrived here on the 4th Instant by the Squirrel Ship of War, and were immediately forwarded to you by Express from Lieutenant Governor Delancy, you will find, Sir, that the King having judged proper that the Earl of Loudoun should return to England his Majesty at the same time was pleased to appoint me to succeed his Lordship as Commander in Chief of the King's Forces in North America with the same powers and Authorities, and you will likewise find that in Pursuance of that Appointment it was his Maj-