

[Sharpe to Pitt.]

Letter Bk. III

16<sup>th</sup> of March 1758.

Sir

I do myself the honour to acknowledge the Receipt of Your two Letters dated the 30<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> & to assure you that I will to the utmost of my Power obey & execute His Majesty's Commands thereby signified, but at the same time I think it my Duty to tell you that I am very much afraid the Assembly of this Province will not be prevailed on to exert themselves in such a manner as you seem to expect. In my Letter dated the 22<sup>d</sup> of Octob<sup>r</sup> I informed you that they were determined to make no farther Provision for the Support of any Troops that should be placed as a Garrison in Fort Cumberland & that I had thereupon desired the Earl of Loudoun to take such measures & to give such orders as he should think proper for the Preservation of that place When I found by His Ldp's answer that he could not just at that time order any other Troops thither, I communicated it to the Gentlemen of the Assembly & again press't them to comply with the Earl of Loudouns Request by enabling me to pay the Garrison above-mentioned, but they were so far from entering into His Ldp's Measures that they not only insisted on our Troops being withdrawn from Fort Cumberland, but likewise that they be forthwith reduced from 500 to 300 Men & that none of such 300 should be subject on any account whatever to the Commands of the Earl of Loudoun or any other of His Majesty's Generals.—As the Gent<sup>n</sup> of the Upper House thought this an Infringement of His Majesty's Perogative & moreover were of opinion that the Bill which was framed for raising the Supplies was not only unreasonable but in some Respect impracticable they refused to give their Assent to it which laid me under the necessity of proroguing them for a few Weeks as the Lower House had upon the Bill's being returned to them with a Negative come to a Resolution that they would not enter on any new Business that Session. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of Feby we met again & I then laid before them some more Letters that I had received from the Earl of Loudoun, by one of these we were called upon to augment our Forces without Delay so that we may have 400 Men ready in April to join his Majesty's Regular Forces over & above the Number that might be wanted to garrison Fort Cumberland & the other Fort that has been built within the Limits of this Province but as the Gent<sup>n</sup> of the Lower House met determined to enforce the Bill which the Upper House had before rejected or such a one at least as differed not from that in any material Circumstances I soon found myself obliged to put an End to that Session & the Assembly now stands prorogued to the 23<sup>d</sup>