

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

July [June] 3^d 1757.

Sir

I am now to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Letter dated the 18th of May. It was indeed agreeable to me to have Fort Cumberland garrison'd by some of the Troops in the pay of this Province upon the Virginians being ordered to march thence; & as the Earl of Loudoun was pleased to approve of such a Disposition I did immediately on my Return from Phil^a order Capt Dagworthy to march with a Detachment thither, but as our Assembly seems to take a Pride in shewing their Constituents that they are above all Direction they signified to me by a very plain address that they disapproved of the Disposition that His Ldp had made & of the orders that I had thereupon given. They should as you observe have considered that Fort Cumberland lies in this Province & that the Virginians had much more reason to refuse to support a Garrison there, but above all they should I think have considered that as His Majesty had been pleased to entrust the Earl of Loudoun with the Command of all his Forces in America it would ill become them to set themselves up as better Judges of what Steps should be taken for the Defence of these Colonies than the Officer whom His Majesty had promoted to such a Command. Such Arguments as these however had little weight with the Gentlemen that I had to deal with, & they laid me under the Necessity of accepting the 500 men on such Terms as they thought proper to offer them or of putting an End to the Session without obtaining any Supplies either for the general Service or the immediate Defence of this Province. Such being the Temper & Resolution of the Assembly I could do nothing more than get some words inserted in the Bill which they were framing that would leave me a sufficient power to order as many men as I should think proper to Fort Cumberland or any other Place by way of Detachment & to impower me to put all the Troops that I should think fit under the sole Command of Col^o Stanwix in case he should proceed on an Expedition to the Westward or the Exigency of Affairs should make it expedient for the Men to be marched out of this Province. Before I assented to the Bill I writ to Col^o Stanwix advising him of my having succeeded so far, & assuring him that if he would only send an Officer to take the Chief Command I would take Care that there should be always as many Subaltern Officers & Men there as would make up the Number that was judged to be a proper Garrison for that place. In answer to my Letter Col^o Stanwix tells me that he cannot agree to the proposition but that as he apprehends he has a Right to command all the