

with the Country that lies between Juniata River & Potowmack having always lived in those Parts & am informed that the Road which leads to Fort Cumberland from Shippensburg by Fort Frederick is near twenty miles shorter than the Road which goes by Williams's or the mouth of Conegochiegh. You will see by the inclosed Draft wherein that River & Potowmack are laid down agreeable to an actual Survey that this Road strikes off from that w^{ch} leads to William's Ferry a few Miles to the Eastward of Conegochiegh & about a Mile to the Westward of a Plantation called Henry Pawlins, but upon Lieut^e Shelby's Representation I have given orders for opening another Road between Pawlin's & Fort Frederick which will I expect be done within a Fortnight at Farthest & be 3 or 4 miles shorter than that which is used at present. There is a good Road already opened from Fort Frederick into that which was made thro Virg^a to Cape Capon by your Order & the Ford at Cherrys is much better than that at the mouth of Conegochiegh. the Wells that are in & near the Fort afford exceeding good Water & there are Houses enough to receive any quantity of Provision & Stores that the General might have occasion to order thither. There are among the officers at Fort Frederick 2 or 3 that have lived many years in that Part of the Country & are acquainted with most of the Inhabitants if you would write to Capt Alex^r Beall who commands there & let him know what & what quantity of Forage &c you would have purchased & laid in at the Fort at the mouth of Conegochiegh or at any other Place & send him money to pay for it I am apt to think that these officers would be able to purchase on as reasonable Terms as any Person & on better than any Stranger that you can send thither on such a Service.

P. S. I have desired Col^o Prather to buy 20 Loads of Hay 1000 Bush of oats & 1000 Bush of Indian Corn

[Genl. Abercromby to Sharpe.]

Copy.

New York, March 29th 1758

Sir,

As by the Enclosed Extract of M^r Secretary Pitt's Letter to me, Dated from Whitehall December 30th 1757. I am Directed to Appoint Colonel Forbes (who by the same Conveyance has received His Majesty's Commission of Brigadier General in America) to Command such Forces as I shall Judge proper to Leave in the Southern Province; I have in Consequence of the said Directions Appointed Brigadier General Forbes to that Command: And in order to Enable him the better to Carry on this Service, pursuant to His Majesty's Instructions,