

Letter Bk. III tages which the Virginians received last year by the Embargo being taken off there a considerable time before I received Instructions from the Earl of Loudoun to discontinue it in this Province had not made our Trading People very uneasy & apprehensive that such another Step will be taken by them this Summer.

Our Assembly is still sitting but I apprehend to no manner of Purpose as the Lower House seem determined to adhere to a Bill they have now offered four times to the Upper & which the Gentlemen of the Upper House have as often rejected & are determined on their Part never to agree to. As I understand that the Virginians have granted a Sum of Money for the Support of 2000 Men during the Summer, but that it will be absolutely impossible for their Officers to raise that Number in any reasonable time altho they give Ten Pounds by way of Bounty for every Recruit I will in Case our Assembly should do nothing & you approve of the Proposal write to M^r Blair on the Return of this Express & make him an offer of the Men who are at present on the Frontiers of this Province & as the Money which they give by way of Bounty will be as much as the Arrears of Pay that are due to our private Men the Expence to the Crown in Consequence of the Earl of Loudoun's Engagement to me will by this measure be much reduced indeed rendered very inconsiderable.—P. S. There were at Fort Cumberland the 8th of March 220 Men exclusive of Commission'd & Non Commission'd Officers, & 114 private Men were at that time in Fort Frederick. None of them have received any Pay since the 8th of Oct^r last.

Copy.

[Forbes to Sharpe.]

Private
Sir,

Philadelphia, May 2^d 1758

In case your Assembly are mad enough to do Nothing, I like the proposal for the Virginians taking your Troops into their pay extremely, and as I was sending an Express to M^r Blair, I hinted to him that in Case such a proposal was made to him by you, that he ought to Jump at it Directly

But in case he thinks they will be able to Raise their own men, rather than let your Troops be Disbanded, I will take them into the pay of the Crown, upon the Footing of Rangers. And that no time may be lost in Adjusting & Settling those & other measures, I have sent Sir John S^t Clair to Lancaster, & from thence he is to Repair to Winchester in Virginia, where I have Desired M^r Blair, or some Person, with full powers, to meet him on the 18th of this month, and where also