

Letter Bk. III
Annapolis the 5th of April namely that the General intended to be on the Frontiers in about a month from that time if that is what you allude to give me Leave before you proceed to censure that Step to communicate to you in a few words the Reasons that induced me to take it. Our Assembly was at that time sitting & they & many others were acquainted with the Contents of the General's Letter to me of the 21st of March wherein was the following Paragraph "S^r John S^r Clair informs me that you have a Body of Cherokee Indians at Fort Frederick upon Potowmack which I must beg you will be so good as order to be taken Care of untill we can assemble our People which I hope may be done by the 20th of April & as I propose Conegochiegh for a Rendezvous for the Pensilvania Troops & Regulars from Phila^a I beg you will order the Maryland People to Frederick Town in Maryland by that time" there was not a Day but many of the Assembly their Clerks & others went among the Indians or carried the Indians to their Lodgings while they stayed at Annapolis. Some of these took the Liberty to assure the Cherokees that were here (one of whom understood English) that there was to be an Expedition carried on this Summer against Fort Du Quesne & that the Troops which were destined for it would certainly be at Conegochiegh the 20th of that month. It gave me a good Deal of Concern to find that any Persons had taken such Liberties & particularly that the Indians had been told that our Troops were to be at the Place of Rendezvous so very early as the 20th of April, which notwithstanding any Expressions in the General's Letter I really thought improbable & therefore I told the Cherokees when I spoke to them in presence of the Assembly that the General was not to be on the Frontiers till about a month from that time & I afterwards told them that perhaps it would be 6 weeks or more before the Troops could be assembled. Whether the General or you are of opinion that I said too much or too little on that occasion I know not but I hope you will believe me when I assure you that what I told the Indians was said with a good Intention & that I shall be extremely sorry if the General or any one else should have Cause to think it has had or may have an ill Effect—

[Sharpe to Pitt.]

18th of May 1758—

S^r

In the Letter which I did myself the Honour to write the 16th of March I told you that the Assembly of this Province was to meet the 23^d of that month, that I would then communicate to them the Contents of your Letter dated the 30th