

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Forbes.]

Mouth of Conegochiegh the 9th of June 1758.

Sir

As I perceive by a Letter from S^r John S^r Clair to the Commanding Officer of the Maryland Troops that your Excellency has been pleased to order them to march & join the Rest of his Majesty's Forces under your Command I am prevailed on by the repeated Requests of the several Gentlemen that have the Command of those Troops & of the Person that has victualled them to submit their Case to Your Excellency hoping you will take it into Consideration & by some means or other relieve them from the Difficulties wherein they find themselves at present involved. Your Excellency is not I presume to learn that when the Earl of Loudoun met the several Governors of these Southern Colonies at Philadelphia in March 1757 he proposed among other matters that the Province of Maryland should raise & support 500 Men to garrison Fort Cumberland & Fort Frederick on the Frontiers of that Province or to be otherwise disposed of as Colo. Stanwix should think best for His Majesty's Service. As this Proposal of His Ldps appeared to me very reasonable I promised to recommend it to the Assembly to augment our Troops to that Number & when the Virginians evacuated Fort Cumberland which they did in April I ordered Capt Dagworthy to march with some of the Maryland Troops & to take Possession of it. No sooner was the Assembly apprized of Capt Dagworthys having left Fort Frederick than they expressed their Disapprobation in the most publick manner & when they framed a Bill for augmenting our Troops they carefully inserted such a Clause in it as they imagined would restrain their Service to Fort Frederick or at least put it out of the power of the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Forces in America to post them at Fort Cumberland. When I found that the Assembly had come to such a Resolution I advised Colo. Stanwix thereof by a Letter dated the 8th of May wherein was the following Paragraph "I am sorry to inform you that I cannot prevail with the Assembly of this Province to engage to support Fort Cumberland but that on the Contrary they have come to a Resolution to pay no Captains or Companies that shall be posted there. By the Bill which they have framed & which now lies before me for my Assent I can order Detachments from our several Companies thither under the Command of Subaltern Officers to be relieved from Fort Frederick every month but they will not suffer one of our Officers to have the Chief Command nor our Troops to be posted there as a Garrison apprehending I presume that by