

[Sharpe to St. Clair.]

Letter Bk. III

23<sup>d</sup> of June 1758.S<sup>r</sup>

Your Packet of the 22<sup>d</sup> Inst has relieved me from many Anxieties & am well assured that both Officers & Men are much obliged to you. Should the General be of Opinion that I can in the least contribute towards forwarding the Expedition you may let him know that his Commands shall be cheerfully obeyed. What Col<sup>o</sup> Cresap has wrote concerning the Road I am apt to believe will have but little weight when I assure you that Capt Shelby had not at the time the Col<sup>o</sup> met him reconnoitred the least Part of the Road he undertook to lay out except Sidling Hill; it is now eight Days since he left this Place & no news of his Return the Instructions that he received at going off are inclosed & you may rest assured that no time shall be lost in communicating his answer; Had Ralph Matson of whom you take not the least notice been prevailed on to come hither much time would have been saved for you well know I am not in the least acquainted with the Road proposed. The Camp Kettles &c for Col<sup>o</sup> Byrds Regiment were sent immediately away to Winchester. I must defer writing to you about the Waggon till my next which I hope will be in a Day or two at farthest—

[Sharpe to St. Clair.]

Fort Frederick the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1758.D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

This Evening Capt Shelby who returned hither in the Afternoon delivered me the inclosed Report which I send you by an Express, I shall give no orders about opening the Road untill I hear from you again nor indeed can I as we have not more than three or four Axes here & no Sort of Tools, I shall however take a Ride to Licking Creek in the Morning & order our Troops which are at this Fort to prepare Timber for a Bridge over Licking Creek in Case you should think proper to have such a Bridge made. I suppose it might be supported on Triangular Piers made with Logs & filled with stones as is that which was made over Antietam when General Braddock marched that Way but I understand that the Piers must be 12 or 15 feet high from the Foundation. I have desired one of our militia Lieutenants who is in garrison here to write down to his Country men the Dutch about Frederick Town & encourage them to go with their Waggon to Carlyle; As the man has a good Deal of Influence among them I thought this was the best method I could take to have you supplied with some Waggon from