

Original.

[Dinwiddie to Sharpe.]

Williamsburg June 14th 1757

Sir

Your Fav^o of the 3^d I rec^d last Night. Fort Cumberland being by Order of Lord Loudoun to be garison'd by Your Forces, it appears to me very inconsistent & unmañerly in Your Assembly to make any Hesitation, or to dispute his Lordships Power & more so when so solemnly concerted & agreed to at the Meeting of the Gov^{rs} with his Lordship; no Doubt if they persist in their ill-natur'd Opposition, some Method probably may be found out to make them repent of their Folly, indeed their parsemonius Behavior at this Time of imminent Danger has occasion'd me much Trouble with the Assembly of this Dominion.

I think you cou'd not shun accepting the 500 Men in their Way, & when raised undoubtedly Col^o Stanwix will give Directions how they are to be dispos'd of & will continue Cap^t Dagworthy in his Command. I wish Col^o Stanwix wou'd form an Expedition to the Westward, as the Enemy have only 140 Men at Fort Du Quesne; this I have from Serjeant Fant, who was Prisoner there some Time, & made his Escape with a Catawba Indian—pray where is Col^o Stanwix? about a Fort-night ago he sent Waggons from Pennsylvania for 100 Bls Powder, Lead &c. which were sent him from Fort Loudoun: I never thought he wou'd send an Officer to command Fort Cumberland, or indeed is it eligible, when I consider he must have the Disposition made with Lord Loudoun. I think Your Agents will not refuse to issue Pay for the Cap^t & Men at Fort Cumberland, as they are part of the 500 Men to be raised by Your Act; & I hope they will not think of being brought under a military Order to compell them to Obedience to His Majesty's Commands, by the Direction of L^d Loudoun; they cannot now be more averse to raise Supplies for the general Service than they have hitherto always with unseasonable Parsemony done. I refer you to my last in Answer to Y^{rs} of the 5th of May. & I must still insist on the Agreement between us of replac^{ing} at Fort Loudoun all such Provisions &c. as can be purchas'd & those that cannot be purchas'd I think shou'd be valued & paid in Cash. The Fish, if any Expedition shou'd be concerted to the Westward, will be very proper as it's very portable, & I think there is nothing else but what is necessary Col^o Stephen assur'd me, the Beef was very good when deliver'd, excepting two Casks that had lost the Pickle, & that our People eat it with Pleasure.

I observe what You order'd in regard to the Cherokees, the Scalps & Prisoners they brought in which I doubt not was agreeable to them; we have a fresh Party of thirty come here,