

Letter Bk. III as that the Doctor might not be detained any longer at Phil^a otherwise perhaps M^r Howell might keep him there until he shall hear again from Your Excellency or from M^r Kilby. I shall endeavour to get the Voluntiers that I expect to march with me to Fort Cumberland hither the 1st of Sept^r or on any other Day that you may think fit to appoint but notwithstanding the Report the Officer has made me & the hopes he has given me that the men will make no Difficulty of marching I am afraid many of them will be dissuaded or discouraged by the members of our Assembly or their Instruments who are I understand extremely busy below & leave no Stone unturned that may hinder any men from marching to serve on the Frontiers under my Command. The Resolves they made just at the Conclusion of our last Session & that were published by Order of the House in one of the Maryland Gazettes which you asked after at Carlyle was a Warning to me to expect opposition but notwithstanding the Experience I have had I could not conceive that when the Safety of the Province was so much at Stake as it is at present they would be so very anxious as they appear to put it out of my Power to provide in any Degree for the Security of the Inhabitants, however I hope I shall yet be able to perform as much as I have ever promised, I mean if You can leave Rays Town within this Fortnight & can proceed to Fort Du Quesne before the Beginning of Oct^r when I must necessarily meet the Assembly I hope to be able to get men enough to garrison not only this Place but Fort Cumberland also & you may be assured that I shall embrace every Opportunity of convincing you that I most sincerely wish you Success in Your Expedition &c.

[Sharpe to Pitt.]

Fort Frederick the 27th of August 1758.

Sir

Not knowing whether General Forbes might at this time have an Opportunity of sending Letters to England or indeed whether he is able to write & having just received Advice of a Vessel's being about to sail from this Province I do myself the honour to inform you that about 3000 of the men whereof he has the Command & Half the Train of Artillery are advanced to a River called the Laurel hannon which according to the best Account I can get is 70 miles beyond Ray's Town the Place of general Rendezvous) & about 35 miles to the Eastward of Fort Du Quesne, the last of those 3000 men marched from Rays Town the 23^d Inst & there still remains at that place about 1800. The Army in general is very healthy the Pensilva^a New Levies & those that came from