

Letter Bk. III three are returned home, but there are I understand about 40 of the Catawba Indians just come from Carolina to Winchester & it is said that these intend to join & continue with the Army during the Campaign.

[Sharpe to Wm. Sharpe.]

Fort Frederick the 27th of Augst 1758.

D^r B^r

My last was dated from Frederick Town the 27th of May at which time I was on my way toward this Frontier in order to settle some Plan for the immediate Defence & Protection of the Inhabitants after the Troops which had been supported here for that purpose should march westward in obedience to the General's Orders. Our Troops having received such orders the 15th of June I have garrisoned this Place with Militia ever since that time & it gives me pleasure to be able to inform you that notwithstanding our Assembly men have taken infinite Pains to dissuade & discourage them from marching in obedience to my Commands yet these Patriots have not succeeded & the Behaviour of all that I have yet had occasion to call out has indeed far exceeded my Expectations. As our Militia Officers were quite inexperienced & no one was left to give them any Advice or Instructions & as I apprehended that my presence here would be necessary during the Campaign & that I could be of some Service to the General in forwarding his Stores &c from this Place I have taken up my Residence at Fort Frederick ever since the 16th of June except that I went to Carlyle towards the latter End of July soon after the General arrived there & staid with him a few Days. Before I took my Leave the Gen^l was laid up as it was said by the Flux, but I believe it is rather a total Decay of his Constitution, he tells me in a Letter which I received from him a few Days since that he cannot paint the misery which he has felt since I saw him but he flatters himself that he is now on the Recovery & that he shall be able to travel in two or three Days. As he is very desirous to march against the Enemy with as great a Force as he can he has desired me to garrison Fort Cumberland for three or four Weeks with Militia, which will leave him at Liberty to strengthen the Rear of his Army with the Virginia Troops that are at present there. I am apprehensive that if I was to order any of the Militia to that distant Post none of them would be afterwards prevailed on to come thus far, but I am endeavouring to get 200 or 250 Voluntiers for that Service. All the Encouragement that I give them is that I shall take the Command of them myself & stay with them at Fort Cumberland as long as