

Letter Bk. III You cannot easily conceive how the Loss of the Earl of Loudoun is now regretted in America, as well in these Southern Colonies as to the Northward, indeed nothing has seemed to go on rightly with us since His Lordship was superceeded, the plan which he had laid for an early Expedition ag<sup>st</sup> Fort Du Quesne was at once overset by the Troops which he had quartered for that purpose in Maryland & Pens<sup>a</sup> last Winter being ordered to the Northward as soon as General Abercromby assumed the Chief Command, beside you must know that His Ldp begun to be regarded among us as a Vice Roy & to have great Influence in all the Colonies which I am apt to think his Successors will never have. The Inactivity as it has been called of the last Campaign was indeed censured for a while but after the People had heard Affairs represented in their true light they were perfectly reconciled to His Ldp's Conduct & were universally of opinion that the Event of this Campaign had he continued at the Head of His Majesty's Forces in America would have been equal to their wishes, at least that His Ldp would have used his utmost Endeavours to make it answer their Expectations. I had before heard & since I have seen Brigadier Forbes I have the greatest Reason to believe that General Abercromby & he have been on very ill Terms ever since the Earl of Loudoun left them, who has been to blame for this I cannot tell as I have only had an opportunity of hearing one of them speak of the Affair & he too at a time when his Indisposition & several Disappointments which he had met with had rendered him much dissatisfied with his Situation & prospect.

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[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

F Frederick the 27<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>st</sup> 1758.

My Lord

In the last Letter which I did myself the Honour to address to Your Ldp the 9<sup>th</sup> of Iuly I gave it as my opinion that the Troops destined for this Western Expedition would not be on the Alleganny Mountains before the Middle of this Month but I have now the Pleasure to inform you that 3000 of them among whom are most of the Highland Battalion & the four Companies of Royal Americans are advanced to a River called the Laurel hannon which is about 70 Miles beyond Rays Town & 35 to the Eastward of Fort Du Quesne & near this River S<sup>r</sup> Iohn S<sup>r</sup> Clair is I am informed building a Stoccado Fort for the Reception of a quantity of Stores & Provisions. There remain at Rays Town about 1800 & some Detachments are still employed in convoying Stores from different places to Raes Town. The General is at Shippensburg more