

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Stanwix.]

Annapolis the 27th June 1757.

Sir

Your Favour of the 23^d I received last Night together with a Copy of a Letter from Capt Dagworthy for which I return you thanks. the Evening after I writ to you from Frederick Town a second Letter was also brought to me from Capt Dagworthy wherein he gave me the same Account that he does to you & as I was very unwilling to put the Province to any Expence that could be avoided I thereupon countermanded the Orders that had been before sent to the Officers of the Militia, the Companies that were in motion which amounted to about 500 Men were the next morning dismissed & on Thursday as some Business made my Return hither necessary I also left Frederick Town I have already intimated to you that our Militia Laws are very defective & that the Assembly will not be persuaded to amend them, in particular it is a question whether the Militia can be compelled to march out of the Province, & tho I am persuaded that none or very few would have refused to follow me had the Intelligence that was received the other Day proved true yet I do not beleive that any of them would march to garrison Fort Loudoun as they would conclude that the Assembly would never allow them any Pay or Provisions while they should remain on that Service, Indeed the Assembly has been too backward in making the Men that have at times been ordered on Duty a proper Allowance, & as most of the Men of whom the Militia is composed depend on their Labour for their daily Bread & cannot lose any time without distressing their Families one cannot be surprized at their being less alert & ready to march than might be expected if they were punctually paid. If a Company marches in obedience to their Officers Orders & Provisions Horses & Carriages are taken from any Inhabitant by the Press-Master for the use of such Company, the Assembly will not probably provide for the payment of such Persons within four or five Years, & that is considered by some as little better than having their Accounts rejected at Once. but notwithstanding these Difficulties I hope we shall be able to muster & march 500 Men on a few Days notice in case the Motions of the Enemy should at any time make such a Step absolutely necessary. I apprehend that as upwards of 160 Recruits have been lately sent to Fort Frederick a Detachment might be spared thence to reinforce Dagworthy, but you know that our Act of Assembly as well as Your Letter to Capt Beall puts it out of my Power to give any such Orders. however if you shall think fit to order more Men to Fort Cumberland I would desire you or let an Officer & Detach-