

[Sharpe to Forbes.]

Letter Bk. III

Annapolis the 6th Nov^r 1758—

Sir

I do myself the honour to acknowledge my Receipt of the Letter you were pleased to write to me from Rays Town the 22^d of Oct^r which I shall lay before the Assembly agreeable to Your Desire but I shall not have an Opportunity of doing so before the 20th Inst some extraordinary proceedings of the Gentⁿ of the Lower House last week having laid me under the necessity of proroguing them to that time. As the members of the present House are for the most part the same Men that composed the last I am much afraid they will not be prevailed on to alter their Measures & indeed they almost tell me as much in an Address which they were pleased to present in Answer to the Speech that I made them at the opening of the Session, they have however as the inclosed Paper will more particularly shew resolved that out of the first Supplies which shall be granted for His Majesty's Service they will appropriate a Sum of Money to reimburse Your Excellency what you have advanced on the Credit of this Province & also to pay off all the Arrears that shall be due to the Maryland Forces at the End of the Campaign. The Gentⁿ of the Upper House have likewise on their part professed that they are very desirous Your Excellency should be reimbursed & our Troops paid off, but notwithstanding these Resolves & Determinations I am persuaded as I have already intimated that if the Lower House insists on the Bill they formerly offered & will not frame one on a different Plan, No Money will be raised here on this Side Christmas for any purpose whatever; And with regard to what Your Excellency says of the Expediency of these Colonies supporting Troops to garrison the several Forts mentioned in Your Letter I am apt to think that if the two Houses of Assembly do agree to raise money the Gentⁿ of the Lower House will be very averse to supporting a Garrison at Fort Cumberland or any other more advanced Post & I found my opinion on some Resolves of the late Lower House & on an Address which they desired me to send last year to the Earl of Loudoun wherein they peremptorily declared that they never would, nor do I believe they will agree to any Augmentation of our Troops at least during the Winter, Not knowing whether you have yet received the last Pens^a Paper I take the Liberty to inclose you one & also to send Your Excellency a Copy of a Letter which I received last Saturday from Doctor Ross as prolix I think as the Letter he wrote to Your Excellency was Laconic if at any time You shall have Leisure & will take the