

[Sharpe to Pitt.]

Letter Bk. III

Annapolis the 28<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1758.

Sir

I do myself the honour to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Letter dated the 18<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> whereby you were pleased to advise me of His Majesty's having thought fit to appoint Major General Amherst Commander in Chief of All his Forces in North America & were also pleased to direct me to Correspond with His Excellency & to obey such Orders as he may at any time think proper to send me which I shall carefully do. According to the last Accounts that have been received here from the Westward General Forbes reached the Post at Loyalhannin the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst, & was then in a pretty good State of Health. On the 13<sup>th</sup> a Detachment of a thousand Men marched thence to open a Road towards Fort Du Quesne & as many more followed them the 15<sup>th</sup> the 16<sup>th</sup> Inst. Part of the Artillery moved on escorted by Colo. Montgomerie with about 700 Men & the General was to march the next Day with about a thousand more which exclusive of 600 that were to remain at Loyalhannon were all the Men that were then with him. I am informed that one Johnson who had been some time among the French & was coming out with a Party of them to take away or kill some more of the General's Horses was taken Prisoner the 12<sup>th</sup> of this Month as were two of the Enemy's Indians on the 14<sup>th</sup>, & that if their Intelligence is to be depended on the Commanding Officer at Fort Du Quesne did upon the Return of the Detachment that attacked & defeated some of our Troops near the Camp at Loyalhannon the 12<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> send off a considerable Part of his Garrison & many of their Indians imagining that General Forbes would not be able to proceed any farther this Campaign for want of the Horses which that Detachment killed or carried off with them & which it is said were more than 200 a Number that by all Accounts he could indeed but very ill spare. As the Weather has been very good for this fortnight past & still continues favourable I am in hopes that the Troops have before this time overcome all the Difficulties that they may have expected to meet with on their March & that by a Vessel which is to sail hence in 8 or 10 Days for London I shall be able to send you an agreeable Account of the Event of this Western Expedition. Being obliged to return home from the Frontiers to meet the Assembly at this time I have press't them to provide for the Payment of the Maryland Troops that have continued with the General during the Campaign but I am afraid they will never agree to raise Money on any Account whatever unless the Gentlemen of the Upper House