

Troops on their March or obliged them to halt we should have received Advice thereof before this time. Having in my Letter of the 28th of Nov^r acquainted M^r Calvert with the Proceedings of the Assembly to that time I have now only to add that they have done little since, or at least that no Bill of Consequence has been yet offered to the Upper House since the Opening of the Session except one to revive & continue in force for five years longer the Act called the Inspection Law to which I have by the unanimous Advice of Your Ldp's Council given my Assent. &c.

Letter Bk. IV

[Sharpe to Pitt.]

Letter Bk. III

8th of Decem^r 1758.

Sir

Since I did myself the Honour to write to you the 28th of Novem^r We have received Advice by the Way of Winchester in Virginia which was brought thither from the Loyalhannon by a Lieut^t of the Virginia Forces that the French had carried the Artillery & all their Stores from Fort Du Quesne down the Ohio the 20th or 21st of last month a few Days before General Forbes arrived there, & that they had before they went off destroyed the Fort & all the Houses which had been built near it as well on the other as on this Side the River. I am informed that Letters have been received by several Persons in the Western Parts of Pensilvania wherein their Friends at Loyalhannon give them the same Account & altho I have not myself received any such Advice from the General or any Officer under his Command yet I do not in the least doubt but the Enemy have actually abandoned Fort Du Quesne agreeable to the above Relation & as there is a Vessel just about to sail from this Province I thought it my Duty to communicate to you what I have heard & give Credit to.

[Pitt to Sharpe.]

Original.

Whitehall Dec^r 9th 1758.

Sir

His Majesty having nothing so much at Heart, as to improve the great and important Advantages gained the last Campaign; as well as to repair the Disappointment at Ticonderoga, and by the most vigorous and extensive Efforts to avert by the Blessing of God on His Arms, all Dangers, which may threaten North America, from any future Irruptions of the French; And the King not doubting, that all His faithful and brave Subjects there will chearfully co-operate with, and second to the utmost, the large Expence and extraordinary