

Original.

[Dinwiddie to Sharpe.]

London 12<sup>th</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 1760

Dear Sir

Your Letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> last was a long time ere it reached me, for which I thank you & do now Congratulate you on the repeated Successes of last Campaign in N. America, and I hope Gen<sup>l</sup> Amherst in the ensuing Summer will be able to take Mount Real, so as to reduce the whole of Canada to the British Crown. We had great rejoicings here on the above successes & Adm<sup>l</sup> Boscawen's & S<sup>r</sup> Edward Hawke's defeating two French Squadrons so effectually that 'tis thought it will be many years before the French can bring their Navy into a respectable condition. After all our Successes His Majesty & the King of Prussia proposed a Congress for bringing about a general Peace, but it appears this must be a work of time, as there has been no direct answer to the above generous Proposal, but all parties are preparing with great assiduity for the operations of the Ensuing Campaign. Our ministry are very sanguine therein. A subscription was opened & in a few days was subscribed eight millions for that service, which is all that was demanded or expected. The French have neither money nor Credit; They have called in all their plate to the Mint to be coined. They stop payment of all their funds; Annuities to the People not paid; Bills of Exchange of all kinds by an Edict from the Crown are ordered not to be paid, which puts a general stagnation on their trade, & they cannot borrow money at 8 p<sup>r</sup> Cent Interest. In short I think that Nation was never reduced to so low an ebb.

Now, Sir, after leaving publick affairs I shall mention something relating to yourself. As I live pretty near your Brother William, you are often the subject of our discourse. I have been pressing to get you on this Establishment as Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>l</sup> your Brother says L<sup>d</sup> Albemarle will write to Gen<sup>l</sup> Amherst to see if that can be done with you, & I am convinced if you had remained here in the Army you would have had a Regiment before this. you have some demands on the publick for services done; These demands should be specifically drawn out & sent with a Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Pitt, which probably with your Brother's Interest may be attended with success. He has been soliciting for Mr. Ridout to succeed Mr. Deacon but your Letter came too late, for the warrant was obtained for Mr. Wolstenholme, but as I was in the City the other day I heard that gentleman was thought be dying & given over which I communicated to your Brother & yesterday he waited on the Duke of Newcastle & I think on that period Mr. Ridout will succeed, but all sollicitations at this time are attended with