

Letter Bk. III Quantity of Provisions in 12 large Boats & that he was told by some of the Garrison that 700 men were expected down from a Fort which had been built on this Side the Lakes, upon whose Arrival some Expedition of Importance would be undertaken wherein they should have Occasion for 6 Cannon & 2 mortars that had been got ready for such a purpose. If what he says also about a Party's being sent from Fort Du Quesne a few Days before he left it to cut off our Communication with Fort Cumberland is true It is not I think very improbable that they have a Design on that place. As it is much farther advanced than any other of our Forts it has served as a Place of Retreat to all the Parties of Soldiers or Cherokees that have at times annoyed the Enemy. this the French are not ignorant of, they have heard also that a considerable Quantity of Ammunition & other Stores were left there by Col<sup>o</sup> Dunbar & they cannot but see that it is exceedingly weak as well from its Situation as from the materials wherewith & manner after which it is built. For some time past it has been garrisoned with 150 Men who are in the pay of this Province but I apprehend that Colo Stanwix has e'er now given orders for the Garrison's being reinforced with 120 men from two New Companies that the Assembly of this Province when they met in May last thought fit to empower me to raise, the Rest of the Troops that are at present supported by this Province being in Number about 140 effective Men are left at Fort Frederick to garrison that place & patrol on our Frontiers for the Protection of our Westernmost Settlements from which that Fort is about 12 miles distant. I am My Ld w<sup>th</sup> the utmost Respect Y<sup>r</sup> Ldps—

Original.

[Dinwiddie to Sharpe.]

Williamsburg July 28<sup>th</sup> 1757

Sir

Yours of the 16<sup>th</sup> I rec<sup>d</sup> And I hope Doct<sup>r</sup> Ross has replac'd at Fort Loudoun the Flour & other Things not objected to by Your People. I have a Copy of Iohn Streets Information & I believe Fort Du Quesne has been reinforc'd & supplied with Provision from Mississippi, & that they will constantly send Parties to harrass our Frontiers, & probably endeavor to supplies being sent to Fort Cumbl'd; but I cannot think that 700 Men are sent from the Lakes, as I am of Opinion that all the Men they possibly can collect will be sent to Canada to oppose Lord Loudoun; however the News ought not to be neglected but we shou'd be provided against the Worst & no Doubt Col<sup>o</sup> Stanwix will do the necessary to have the Forces ready to join on a Call; & the Convo'y sent to Fort Cumbl'd