

Letter Bk. I. when he was taken by the Enemy & carried into Captivity. Being examined on Oath he says there were at Fort Du Quesne in May last about 300 French & some Indians that before he came off a Reinforcement of 200 Soldiers had arrived from the Mississippi & brought with them 12 large Boats loaded with Provisions. that the Garrison of Fort Du Quesne expected 700 more Soldiers & many more Indians down the Ohio every Day & that immediately on their Arrival an Expedition was to be undertaken agst Fort Cumberland for which purpose 6 Cannon & 2 Mortars had been got ready. If this is the Enemys Design I hope Dagworthy will have early Advice of their motions otherwise neither Colonel Stanwix Col^o Washington or myself shall be able to get up in time to his Assistance & if we cannot he will have a difficult Task to defend a place that it is morally impossible to render I had almost said Tenable. I beleive the Garrison there at present does not fall far short of 300 men, the Rest of our Provincials are posted at Fort Frederick with orders to patroll on the Frontiers & cover the Inhabitants.

Original.

[Thos. Stephens to Sharpe.]

Sir

Having taken the Liberty of acquainting you from Carolina with the Occasion of my coming hither I beg leave to inform you that what I looked on then as a misfortune may prove otherwise in the Event; for I found that the Treasury did not intend to fulfill their Agreement with me, & such a Combination among the Contractors for foreign Pot Ash as must inevitably have crushed our new Manufacture had I not been here at this Juncture.

My Affair is however refer'd by the Treasury to the Board of Trade where little Business has been done since Lord Halifax resigned, & whether his Lordship will have such an Offer as may induce him to accept of that Place again we do not know, but 'tis not expected he will return on the same Terms he had it.

Having my old Friend & Counsellor of Lincolns Inn to conduct me I am more afraid of the tedious Sollicitation than Success & therefore expecting to put Things upon such a Footing here as to give Satisfaction to your Self & every Gentleman who has shewn Countenance to the Undertaking I hope for the Honor of seeing you again with a good Face & am with the greatest Regard & due Respect,

Sir

London. }

1 Aug^t 1757 }

His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq^r

Your most obedient
very humble Servant
Tho^s Stephens