

I am sorry for the Death of Sir John St Clair, who was a valueable Man & a good Officer. I wish You Health & Happiness & with great Truth I remain—

Your Excellency's  
most obed<sup>t</sup> hble Servant  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Dinwiddie

Williamsburg  
Oct<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1757

Copy.

[Loudoun to Sharpe.]

Albany Nov<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1757.—

Sir

Last Night I had the favor of yours of October 21<sup>st</sup> with an account of the Proceedings of Your Assembly, & a Copy of their address to you.—

I must own the Restriction Your Assembly Endeavored to Lay on the Troops raised by Your Province last Spring Surprized me, as it Interfered with the King's undoubted prerogative of Commanding all His Subjects in Arms, either by Himself or those he appoints under him.—

But as the Troops were wise enough to obey His Majesty's orders given them, by those who alone, had power to give them; and as I was Informed by a Gentleman from Maryland that, that Clause of the Act had been Layed before Lawyers, who had all agreed that it was not in the power of the Assembly to Lay such a Restriction, and that of Course the Clause was Null, I was in hopes the Gentlemen that Compose the Assembly had Reconsidered that Affair and seen the Error of it—

But your Letter, & their Redress have shewn me that I was mistaken; and yet I cannot help having that Charity for my Fellow Subjects to believe that this Affair has not Appeared to them in its true Light, for I Cannot think, that the Assembly of Maryland ever Intended to Invade the King's undoubted prerogatives.

Nor can I possibly believe that they Intend to throw the Frontier Garrisons of His Majesty's Dominions, into the Enemy's hands, particularly when those Garrisons are in their own Province, & so Essential to their own protection.—

And yet this measure is big with all those Consequences, both from its own nature, & still more so, from the season in which it is taken, the account of it arriving to me late on the 2<sup>d</sup> of November, in the back Country of the Province of New York, by which measures they not only Refuse their Aid to the Common Cause, and Desert the Interest & Security of their own Province, But by the season they have taken this Resolution in, put it out of the power of the King's Servants