

Copy.

[Loudoun to Sharpe.]

Private.

Albany Nov^r 3^d 1757.

Sir

I Have by this Express, writ you a Publick Letter in pretty strong Terms, as it appeared to me necessary in the present situation of Your Assembly, that you should have such in your possession; But as Fort Cumberland is of the greatest Consequence to the security of the Back Settlements in your part of the Country, not only to the Province of Maryland, but likewise to Pensilvania & Virginia, I have not entirely trusted to your Assembly's coming to Judge right on this so very Important point, on having the Consequences fairly stated to them of such a proceeding; but have ordered Colonel Stanwix to take a particular attention to that place, & if he can Collect as many of the Virginia Troops as are necessary for Composing that Garrison, to march them directly to take possession of it; If they should be Infected with the Proceedings of your Assembly, & follow their Example, that in that Case he should immediately march a Number of the King's Regular Troops to take possession of that Garrison; and in the mean time I have ordered the Contractor for Provisions to dispatch a proper person to Colonel Stanwix, to receive his orders in relation to Victualling that post.—

I Have likewise directed Col^o Stanwix to Correspond and Co-operate with you; and I must beg you will be so good as to Concert measures with him, and give him Constant Information of what may be Expected from Your Assembly, who, I should hope, would not run headlong into a measure, that may be the Ruin of their own, and the neighbouring Provinces, and the giving the Enemy an Advantage, that may probably Cost the Lives of Thousands of His Majesty's Subjects before it can be Retrieved, nor can I think they will venture, by so dangerous a Step, to draw the Iust Resentment of Government upon them, notwithstanding the Slights People of this Country Affect to treat Acts of Parliament with.

In order to shew you the nature of the orders I have sent to Colonel Stanwix, I send you Copies of them Enclosed, and do not doubt that you will, most seriously Co-operate with me, not only in bringing your People, to Act in Conjunction with the other Colonies in the Common Cause, but that you will Endeavor to the utmost likewise to save all Expence to the Publick, and endeavor to get your People not only to Garrison Fort Cumberland, but likewise to supply it with Provisions.

This Affair gives me the greatest Concern, as it seems big with the most fatal Consequences. Your Assembly in this Case, have taken a Step that tended to Subvert all Government, and at once to throw off all Submission to the Govern-