

To Colonel Stanwix: March the 12. 1758

I am now to inform You that our Session of Assembly has ended just as I expected it would when I wrote to You the 4th Inst. The Gent^l of the Upper House having refused to assent to the Bill that was offered by the Lower & that differed very little from their last; The Lower House thereupon came to a Resolution that they would enter on no new Business which laid me under a Necessity of prosecuting them as I have already hinted. This being the Case I must leave it to You to take such Steps for the Preservation of Fort Cumberland as You shall think fit for as I have never been authorized to draw upon any One for Money to pay those Men that are now there & that have garrisoned that Place during the Winter I cannot venture to make myself answerable to the Officers for any especially as the Earl of Loudoun at whose Instance I have encouraged them to keep their Men together till this time has no longer the Chief Command in America. This I am advised of by a Letter that I received two Days ago from Mr Pitt who insists on my convening the Assembly of this Province again without Delay & enjoins me to urge them in the most pressing & importunate manner to raise for the Service of the ensuing Campaign & to provide for the Payment of as large a Body of Troops as they can afford to act in Conjunction with such Forces as are to be employed in carrying on offensive Measures to the Westward under the Command of Brigadier General Forbes.

Altho I have in fact already complied with the Tenor of this Letter the Earl of Loudoun's late Demand being very similar to that which is now made by Mr Pitt I shall meet the Assembly once more & give them another opportunity if they are not absolutely blind to their own Interest; of contributing to the Success of the next Campaign; but at the same time I think it my Duty to tell You that my Expectations from this Step are as small as possible & I should be much oblig'd to You for favouring me with an Answer & advising me of the Resolution that You shall come to in Consequence of this Letter