

branches of each Legislature cannot concur about ways and means within a certain limited time. I should be very much obliged to you for intimating to me what step you think will be taken as to this affair, and in case there be a prospect of a rupture between the two crowns, which we are apt to think is not improbable, that you will send me early intelligence thereof, or of any other occurrences, the knowledge of which may be useful to, &c.

You will observe in the minutes of the Council, which the General held at Alexandria, that it was agreed that in case of the reduction of the Fort Du Quesne, whatever garrison the General should think proper to leave there, should be maintained, and the expense of additional works, which he should think necessary to make there, should be defrayed by the govern'ts of Virg'a, Maryland and Pensilvania, and that if the General should think it necessary to build a fort upon Lake Erie, the expence thereof and garrisoning it should likewise be defrayed by those three govr't—these three colonies being to be at the expense of supporting such two forts. I conceive it will be thought proper to establish a regiment in these Colonies, to garrison them as less than a regiment will not be sufficient for that service, for the men will expect to be relieved some times, in that case I hope your good offices will procure me the command thereof, as I have good reason to think neither of the other governors will be found my opponents.

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*To Wm. and J. Sharpe, Esq'rs, August 11th.*

Dr. Br.—The 23d of July I gave you as particular an acc't as I had then been able to get of the fatal engagement that happened between the English troops commanded by General Braddock and the Indians and the French from Fort Du Quesne on the 9th of that month; from Bladensburg whence that letter was dated, I proceeded the day after towards Fort Cumberland, whither I was about to send some fatted oxen and swine (which I imagined the troops must have wanted) when I was informed they had plenty of every thing at the camp, and that Col. Dunbar was preparing to march thence with the remains of the two Regiments and the Independent Company to Phil'a. This last intelligence I found had thrown our distant inhabitants into the greatest consternation, the late depredations of the Indians and the news of the General's misfortune had almost determined them to retire towards the more populous parts of the country, but now they no longer hesitated concluding that when Col. Dunbar should draw off the troops from our borders the enemy would instantly renew and repeat their devastations and that it was better for them to relinquish their possessions at once than remain where they must become an easy prey to an enraged and victorious enemy. This convinced me that my journey to Fort Cumberland thro' the country was more