

nation here he has acknowledged that he came from Fort Du Quesne the Beginning of Oct^r with a Detachment of 160 French & Indians who were to fall on our Frontier Settlements or to attack Fort Cumberland if the Reduction of that place should appear practicable. The prisoner was sent to reconnoitre & inform himself of the Strength of the Garrison & had concealed himself near it in pursuance of his Orders, but apprehending from some motion of the Sentry that he was discovered he dropt his Tomahawk & advancing towards him pretended to have made his Escape from a party of Indians that had detained him prisoner. I propose to send him back to the Commanding Officer at Fort Cumberland to be reexamined & rewarded according to his Deserts &c—

Letter Bk. III

[Denny to Sharpe.]

Original.

Philadelphia 24 Novem^r 1756.

Sir

I have the favour of yours of the 15th Instant inclosing the Examination of William Johnson. I am apt to believe, whatever Character the Man may bear, that he has given in general a pretty true Account several of our Prisoners who have made their Escape from Kittannin and other places having on their Examination deposed to the like Effect with the most material parts of his Information. A thousand French and Indians knowing as they certainly do, the Weakness of this Province may over run it, nor do I see what can hinder their making themselves Masters of this City, the plunder of which will furnish all sorts of Supplies for their Soldiery and Indians, and enable the French to carry on the War with very little Expence.

On Friday I returned from Easton where I have tho' very unwillingly held some Conferences with a number of Delaware Indians the same who came here in the Summer. Their Chief Teedyuscung seems hearty, and I believe has some influence over the Indians on the River Susquahannah who he may keep from doing mischief, and this seems to me to be the most he can do.

I have consented to a peace provided all the Colonies be equally included in it, all the Prisoners delivered up, and the same to be approved by Sir William Johnson and the Six nations at a General Council.

I am glad to hear by the last Letters that Lord Baltimore and the Proprietors are in a fair way to accommodate matters. I am

Sir

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

William Denny