

Provisions. I shall order him to leave 120 of our Men as Letter Bk.III Detachments from his & the other Companies & as soon as our Troops can be augmented to 500 as proposed, the Detachments shall if you think proper amount to 250 to be relieved monthly as I have already intimated. I shall order a Surgeon to remain at Fort Cumberland & a Person will also reside there to deliver out Provisions to the Detachments; if Provisions should be wanted for the Command that you may order thither M^r David Ross who victuals our Troops will if you please engage to deliver at the Fort any Quantity at as low a Price as any one can afford. He victuals the Garrison at Fort Frederick at the Rate of 9^s Currency for each Man p Day, & has given great Satisfaction, he has the Character of an honest Man & will I am persuaded punctually comply with the Forms of any Contract that he shall enter into. I learn from Fort Cumberland that there is a considerable Number of Catawba & Nottoway Indians at that place who are come from the Southward to act in Conjunction with the Troops that shall be employed for the Protection & Defence of these Colonies & by a Letter which I have received from Fort Frederick I find that 62 Cherokees are come thither with the same Design. I have ordered the Express to wait for your answer the Receipt of which will afford much Satisfaction to S^r &c.

[Sharpe to Denny.]

Baltimore 8th May 1757

Dear Sir

I should not have so long delayed to make my Acknowledgments for the Civilities I received at your hands while I was at Phila^a. If I could have conceived that our Assembly would let so many Weeks elapse without coming to some Resolution upon the Matters that at the Opening of the Session I recommended to their Consideration. They have at length with great Reluctance impowered me to augment the Troops in the pay of this Province to five hundred Men to act as they express themselves in Conjunction with the Forces that may be raised in the Neighbouring Colonies or ordered to these Parts for His Majesty's Service & the Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants with this Reserve however that none of our Officers shall have the Chief Command at Fort Cumberland nor any of the 500 Men placed there as a Standing Garrison. I have endeavoured to convince them of the Impropriety of such a Restraint or Prohibition as Lord Loudoun has already ordered a Detachment of the Maryland Forces thither but they are deaf to all the Arguments that I can use in favour