

that Governor Morris had pushed Matters farther than was Letter Bk. III  
desired by his Superiours, or perhaps than was agreeable to the  
Ministry or Parliament; that in case His Ldp was to be  
entirely excused or exempted from the Tax He would be as it  
were obliged to contribute something towards putting his Prov-  
ince in a better posture of Defence & that it would be incon-  
sistent with his Dignity to offer so little as His proportion of  
the Tax would amount to. that no Danger or Injury to His  
Ldp would ensue from the Precedent because if it was by  
Judges at home thought an illegal or unreasonable Act His  
Ldp might for the future send positive Orders to the contrary,  
& by evincing the impropriety of it prevent the Assembly's  
ever making a similar proposition or Attempt hereafter, upon  
these Considerations & with the Council's Advice I have ven-  
tured to assent to the Bill & have herewith transmitted it for  
His Ldp's perusal & Approbation—I said I did not apprehend  
any other Part of the Bill will be objected to by His Ldp, but  
really I am at a Loss to guess what Reception a Clause of it  
that imposes a double Tax on the Lands of Roman Catholicks  
will meet with at home. At times I have received such Letters  
as inclined me to think it would be very disagreeable to His  
Ldp in the least to distress or abridge them of their Liberties  
& Privileges, but as I have lately received a full & positive  
Instruction dated the 27<sup>th</sup> of Oct 1755 directing & requiring me  
to put several Parts of the Penal Statutes in force against  
them I think I can never be blamed for assenting to their  
Lands being doubly taxed, especially as they are excused  
mustering in the Militia, & as it is no more than is every year  
done in England. however some of the principal of them who  
have large Tracts of Land look on the Imposition as a grievous  
Burthen & would fain have prevailed on me to reject the Bill  
purely on that Account. As the Members of the Lower  
House would not have heard of such an Amendment to the  
Bill but on the Contrary have thence taken occasion to charge  
the Gov<sup>t</sup> with countenancing & encouraging Popery they were  
never desired to lessen the Tax but I beleive some Attempt  
will be made by the papists to get the Act dissented to, or at  
least to get me instructed & enjoined to oppose & prevent  
such unequal Taxation for the future. Soon after General  
Shirley sent me a Commission to take the Command of all the  
Forces that should be raised in these Southern Colonies for an  
Expedition to the Westward he informed me that he had writ  
to Governor Dobbs to send the Troops that should be raised  
in his Govern<sup>t</sup> to join me & act under my Command but  
about a week ago I received a Lett<sup>r</sup> from Governor Dobbs  
advising me that agreeable to General Shirley's Desire he had  
sent the four Companies that his Assembly had impowered