

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Pitt.]

Annapolis the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1760.

Sir.

I now do myself the honour to inform you that having convened the Assembly of this Province immediately on the Receipt of your Letter dated the 7<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup> I communicated to them the Contents of it, pressing them at the same time to embrace the Opportunity which it offered them of effacing the Remembrance of their past Failures & of manifesting their Duty Affection & Gratitude to our most gracious Sovereign & to the mother Country by raising & supporting such a Number of Troops to assist in the Operations of the ensuing Campaign as His Majesty was pleased to expect from this Province & as the Inhabitants can well afford to furnish, but Sir tis with concern I must also inform you that an Address which the members of the Lower House sent me the second Day after they met gave me great reason to apprehend, & some Resolves which the House made soon afterwards left me no room to doubt but they were determined at all Events to avoid complying with His Majesty's Requisition, for altho I laid before them together with Your Letter the Opinion of His Majesty's Attorney General M<sup>r</sup> Pratt on the Supply Bill which they had at several times within these three years offered to the Upper House in which Opinion he had Remark'd on several Parts of the Bill & declared it to be such a one as the other Branches of our Legislature could not consistent with Honour or their Duty agree to, yet the Gentlemen of the Lower House Resolved that they would again offer the same Bill & that as they could not agree in opinion with M<sup>r</sup> Pratt that it was either unreasonable or unconstitutional they would still adhere to it; Accordingly they sent their Bill a few Days afterwards to the Gentlemen of the Upper House not expecting their Concurrence, but conceiving that it would have a better Appearance for them to Vote Supplies & then propose to raise them by a Bill which they knew would be rejected than at once to declare themselves entirely averse to granting any Money for His Majesty's Service. Such being the Resolutions of the Lower House, & the Gentlemen of the Upper House being confirmed by M<sup>r</sup> Pratt's Remarks & Observations in the opinion which they always entertained of the Bill that was now for the sixth time offered them, it is I imagine almost unnecessary for me to add that they have again broke up without enabling me to send General Amherst or the Officer that is appointed to Command His Majesty's Forces in this Part of America the least Assistance; nor can I since the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney General hath had so little weight with them flatter myself that they will be ever