

[Sharpe to Amherst.]

Letter Bk. III

To Sr Jeffery Amherst
Srthe 13th of May 1762.

Tho I was persuaded there has been no such infamous Trade as you mention in Your Letter dated the 15th of last Month carried on from this Province nor any Provisions sent hence to Ports out of His Majesty's Dominions I thought it my Duty on the Receipt of that Letter to lay it before the Gentlemen of the Council & to ask their Advice thereupon in pursuance of which I have renewed my Instructions to the several Collectors & Naval Officers within this Govern^t enjoining them to take particular Care that no Provisions be exported in any Vessel whatever from this Province more than a sufficient quantity for the Crews Subsistence unless Bond with good Security shall be given (agreeable to the Directions of the Act of Parliament that was made about five years ago to prevent the Exportation of Provisions from these Colonies to any place not within the King's Dominions) for landing the same at the port for which such Vessel shall clear out. This they are of opinion is all that can be done by me unless a general Embargo was to be laid throughout the several Colonies & I much question whether even that would hinder such Persons as have corresponded & traded with the Enemy from supplying them with Provisions for I suppose such Persons would not if they were reduced to the Necessity scruple to send their Vessels out without any Clearances or to furnish their Masters with fictitious ones. There is but a small part of the inconsiderable quantity of Provisions that are exported from this Province sent to the West Indies, the Rest is carried to Boston N York & Phila^a & I am pretty Confident that if any Persons within this Government were to send a Vessel from any part of this Province to a Port of the Enemy's the Transaction would not long remain a Secret nor could the Produce they would bring back in Return be sold in the Country or ship't hence to Europe as I am told is done in the Northern Colonies without any hearing of it.

[Amherst to Sharpe.]

Original.

New York 23^d May 1762.

Sir,

I am to own Your Several Letters of the 25th April; 10th & 13th May; the first of which I received on the 12th Instant, & the two Latter, by last night's Post.

As the General Assembly broke up, without Complying in any Respect whatever with His Majesty's Requisitions, it only