

taken to comply with the directions of the Lords of Trade to send commissioners to the Albany Conference. Expressing his belief that full compliance with his wishes would be accorded at their next meeting, he prorogued the Assembly until the third Tuesday in July next.

Few laws were passed at this session. One urged by the Governor to prevent the counterfeiting of the Bills of Credit or paper currency of Pennsylvania, New York, the Jerseys, and Delaware, was enacted. As usual a supplementary act to amend in some particular the important "tobacco law" was passed. Two bills relating to church matters became laws. One of these provided for the repair of the Church at Chaptico in King and Queen Parish in St. Mary's County, and another authorized the erection of a Chapel of Ease at Ivy Hill in Port Tobacco Parish in Charles County. The building of a prison in Frederick Town was ordered. The customary act directing Jonas Green to print the session laws and the Votes and Proceedings of the Lower House was passed.

The Assembly, which had been prorogued by Sharpe until July, met on the 17th of this month upon what was the sixth and last session of the body which had been elected in 1751. Events of such serious import had transpired since its meeting two months before, that further delay in making provision for the inevitable conflict with the French seemed impossible, and it was in this spirit that the Governor addressed them. Two weeks before the Assembly met, surrounded by an overwhelming force, Washington in command of the Virginia troops had been obliged to surrender at Great Meadows with his entire force, although he and his men were allowed to retire with the honors of war. The French and Indians were now in control of the entire western frontier. The settlers were in terror and frantic appeals for help were pouring in to the governors of Maryland and Virginia. Sharpe, in his opening speech, reminded the Assembly that there could now be no question of actual invasion of their borders by the French and their savage allies, and that in view of the total defeat of the Virginia troops under Colonel Washington, as a duty to their neighbors and for their own self-respect and protection, immediate compliance must be made with the instructions contained in the letter of the Earl of Holderness. He also informed them that he had already dispatched arms to Frederick and ammunition for the use of the North Carolina troops under Colonel Inness. He urged the Assembly to raise immediately a fund for military purposes, as the money for the purchase of arms in the hands of the two treasurers was nearly exhausted, and that it was also necessary to make provision for raising a force of militia. The Lower House at once prepared a bill entitled "An Act for his Majesty's Service" for the purpose of raising six thousand pounds current money, which was agreed to by the Upper House and promptly passed. After reciting in the preamble the depredations of the French in the inhabited parts