

as possible to cooperate with the Royal forces against the French. The Governor transmitted two letters from Pitt, dated at Whitehall December 9 and December 29 respectively, and two letters from the new Commander-in-Chief, General Jeffrey Amherst, written from New York, December 13, 1758, and March 18, 1759. The letters from Pitt to Sharpe were circular letters sent to the colonial governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and are so similar in tenor to those previously sent by him and transmitted at the March-May 1758 session, as to require little additional comment (*Arch. Md.* LV, xxi, 467-468). The several provinces were directed to raise as large a number of men as they were able, those from each province to be kept together to act under the Commander-in-Chief with the King's regular forces. Pitt again declared that the provincial officers as high as and including colonels, to be commissioned by the several governors from among those gentlemen who from their weight and credit in their several provinces will best aid recruiting, were to have their same rank under Amherst, as had been promised under his Majesty's previous orders of December 30, 1757; and that arms, ammunition, tents, and provisions would be supplied by the King, although the provinces were expected to levy and furnish clothing and pay for the men, and added that Parliament would later be asked to reimburse the provinces for these latter expenditures (pp. 142, 144). In his second letter dated December 29, he emphasized the necessity for great speed in raising men so that they might be ready for service when required by Amherst at the appointed rendezvous (p. 145). Amherst in his letter of December 13, 1758, from New York notified Sharpe of his appointment as Commander-in-Chief in North America, and suggested that the same number of men be furnished for the 1759 campaign as had been levied by the several provinces during the year just closing. He also requested that every assistance be given to the regular officers who were being sent into his Province to help them to recruit men for the Royal American Regiment (p. 144). In his letter of March 18, 1759, Amherst notified Sharpe that, on account of the recent death of General Forbes, he had appointed Brigadier-General Stanwix to have charge of the expedition to the west and asked that the Governor communicate directly with that officer (pp. 145-146).

Both houses of the Assembly sent addresses to the Governor promising to use their best endeavors to comply with the King's wishes, the Lower House expressing the hope that "whoever may have occasioned a Failure last Year, will be induced by the Contents of those Letters, to embrace the Opportunity which now presents itself . . . of making in some Sort Amends, by a ready Concurrence with every equitable Proposal which may be made for promoting his Majesty's Service" (pp. 162-163), a not gentle intimation that the fault lay not with the Lower House but with the upper chamber.

A few days after the Assembly had been convened, other letters arrived for Sharpe from Pitt and Amherst, and one from Stanwix, which were communicated on April 9 to both houses. Pitt, under date of January 23, 1759, wrote that the King, having heard of the success of his arms under Forbes on the Ohio, had ordered that Fort Duquesne, now in ruins, be immediately restored