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TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1746.

*The SPEECH of his Excellency WILLIAM SHIRLEY, Esq; in the General Assembly of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, in New England, held at Boston on Friday, the 7th Day of November, 1746.*

*Gentlemen of the Council, and House of Representatives,*

URING the recess of the court, I have received two packets from lieutenant-governor *Majcarone*; in the former of which he informs me, that the three companies, which I first sent from hence to reinforce the garrison under his command, upon the late intelligence of a large body of *Canadians* being assembled at *Minas*, and the appearance of a *French* fleet upon the coast of *Nova Scotia*, had enabled him to act offensively against the enemy, and desires such a further reinforcement from *New-England*, as would make up the whole 1500 or 2000 men; and in the latter, which was forwarded to me in his majesty's ship *Chester*, lately arrived from the palace of *Annapolis*, he advises me of the *French* fleet's having quitted the coast, and the *Canadians* being decamped and retiring from *Annapolis*, with a design of leaving a party to winter in *Scheguel's*; and that the reinforcement which he had received from me, together with the *Chester* sent him by admiral *Warren* from hence, and the *Shirley* frigate by admiral *Forbes* from *Louisbourg*, had been in a great measure the support of the garrison. Upon receiving the first of these packets, I forthwith ordered five more companies to be embark'd as soon as might be for *Annapolis*, and in concert with admiral *Warren* applied to governor *Wentworth* and governor *Green* to send a reinforcement thither from their respective governments, and accordingly the former of 'em caused two companies to be immediately embark'd from *New-Hampshire*, and the other three from *Rhode-Island*; and notwithstanding the departure of the *French* fleet, and decampment of the *Canadians*, I have proceeded, with the advice of his majesty's council, to forward the reinforcement which I had ordered for *Annapolis*, before the arrival of the last intelligence from thence; they being of opinion with me, that Mr. *Majcarone* may be thereby strengthened this Fall, to take or destroy the enemy's magazines of warlike stores and provisions, which most probably they have left behind them at *Minas* or *Scheguel's*, and secure all the grain and fattening cattle which is not necessary for the present subsistence of the inhabitants, for his majesty's service; by the first of which the necessaries among the inhabitants would be left without arms or ammunition, and the enemy be disappointed of what stores they may expect to find upon their return next year; and by the latter, the country left without subsistence for the *Canadians* or *Inians* next spring; to drive off that party of the enemy which is design'd to winter at *Scheguel's*; to destroy, or at least to harass the *Indians*; to call such of the inhabitants to an account as have appeared in arms against his majesty's garrison, or manifestly held a traitorous correspondence with the enemy; to destroy the settlements of such of them as shall abscond, and lay the inhabitants in general under stronger ties of allegiance and duty to his majesty; whereby it would be rendered extremely difficult, if not impracticable, for an enemy to make any considerable progress in the country next Spring to the disadvantage of the garrison, and a foundation might be laid for a lasting security to his majesty's government, by putting a restraint on the future conduct and behaviour of the inhabitants: For doing all which, this seems to be the critical conjuncture, whilst the *Nova Scotians* are chagrined and dispirited at their late disappointment from the *French*, and before their deluded hopes shall be

revived by fresh promises from *Canada* and *France*, and whilst a riot ravaging sickness prevails among the *Cape-Sable* and *St. John's Indians*.

In the meanwhile, Gentlemen, it must be a sensible pleasure to you to reflect how much the reasonable succours sent from hence have already contributed to the preservation of *Nova Scotia* from its late impending danger; the great value and importance of which province to the crown, and all the *English* colonies upon this continent, as their barrier against the *French*, you are so well acquainted with, that I need not apprize you of it. And I doubt not but you will be always animated with a proper spirit for succouring it in any future emergency, which may require your aid.

*Gentlemen of the Council, and House of Representatives,*

The season being too early for the Winter session to begin, and your affairs in the country being not yet, as I apprehend, quite finished, I shall detain you from 'em no longer than the public business, which requires a present dispatch, obliges me to do.

*Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,*

The three principal matters which call for your immediate consideration is, to make provision for detraying the charge of the works at *Castle William* and *Governor's Island*, an estimate of which I laid before you at your last meeting; and if any further charge, then unforeseen, has arisen, I will order the account of it to be forthwith communicated to you. The lengthening out the establishment for billeting the soldiers rais'd for the intended expedition against *Canada*, and providing for the province's quota of the articles necessary to be furnished for carrying on the expedition against *Crown-Point*, according to the settlement made at *Albany* in concert with the commissioners attending there on the part of this province, and which has been likewise laid before you. With respect to this expedition, I have done every thing on my part towards forwarding it; the fifteen hundred men desired by you to be reserved for the service of it are ready, according to the lists returned to me by the respective officers, to proceed; and with the advice of his majesty's council, I have ordered a thirteen inch mortar, with its carriage and implements, belonging to his majesty's cattle *William*, and one hundred shells, with a proper proportion of fuses taken out of the province stores, to be sent round in transports to *Hudson's* river, which the advanced season of the year required to be done without delay, and were necessary to be sent from this province for the service of the expedition, in case it shall proceed, there being no ordnance stores of the like sort and weight of metal to be had (as I am inform'd) from any other of the colonies concern'd in the expedition;—battering and other cannon will, I expect, be supplied from *New-York*.—And I have likewise, with the advice of the council, sent round with the mortar, and other warlike stores, sixty-two barrels of gunpowder out of the province's stock (which quantity is allotted by the before mentioned settlement for the quota of this province) with such orders as you will perceive I am advised to in the vote of council, in case this application of the before-mentioned stores for the service of this expedition shall not be approv'd of by you. Whatever, Gentlemen, remains further to be supplied on the part of this province towards fitting out this expedition depends upon you.

*Gentlemen of the Council, and House of Representatives,*

I have received advice from one of your agents for prosecuting your petition to his majesty for obtaining a reimbursement of your charges in the late expedition against *Cape-Breton*, that the right honourable the lords of the committee of council, to whom the consideration of that matter was refer'd, were pleas-