

517.

shortly instead of reducing the Power of the French in America  
which if these Colonies exerted themselves properly might be easily  
done. We shall be ready to fall a Prey to their first attempt  
I am sorry to send You such an Account of the Fleet that was  
ordered to America last Summer as You will find in the inclos-  
ed Paper; We do not hear whether the French Squadron is  
yet returned to Europe; but I believe such a Piece of Intelligence  
would at this time be very acceptable to the Inhabitants of  
the principal Towns in the Northern Colonies. If the Wind  
should not serve to carry this Vessel out of Port within  
these two or three Days I shall endeavour to get other Letters  
on Board, & if I should be deprived of that Opportunity I shall  
not fail to send some by the next Packet, by a Vessel that is  
to sail from this Port in a Fortnight or three weeks.

To Lord Baltimore the 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1757  
transmitted by Capt. Price.

My Ld.

In my Letter dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of Oct. last I intimated to your  
Ld. that I was much afraid the Assembly would be very  
unwilling to provide for the farther Support of so great a Num-  
ber of Men as were kept in the Pay of this Province during the last  
Summer & in my Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Calvert dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of Nov. I  
gave him the Heads of a Bill which was then framing in the  
House. This Bill was afterwards sent to the Upper House &  
returned with a Negative. It is impossible for me to send a  
Copy of the Bill by this opportunity of but I have quoted a