

WILLIAM SHIRLEY TO THE LORDS OF TRADE

Boston, New England, October 16th, 1744.

MY LORDS,

Yesterday I fitted out an Arm'd Snow, Brigantine and Sloop, Vessells in the service of this Government with orders to proceed to Annapolis Royall, and there to take in such a Detachment of Soldiers from the Garrison to join 'em, as Collonel Mascarene can spare with four field Carnages some Cohorns [small mortars], and a Mortar upon a small Expedition against the party of French Troops which I mention'd in my last to your Lordships, were to winter in Menis or Chignecto, and also to take satisfaction of such of the French Inhabitants as have already revolted from their Allegiance and join'd the French Enemy, by destroying and burning their Settlements and taking them prisoners, and to take Hostages from among those, who have not yet revolted to be deliver'd to the Garrison as Pledges for the fidelity of the Country. These Vessels wait for nothing but a Wind, and will be join'd with two small Tenders in the Service of the Ordnance, now at Annapolis and a Schooner that is to carry provisions there, and I am in hopes cannot well fail of having it's desir'd Effect; unless the Garrison's late Treaty with Monsieur Duvivier which I mention'd in my last to your Lordships and their condescending to agree with him upon preliminaries (tho the same were not actually sign'd) for surrendring upon the arrival of the Armament from Louisbourg, which I likewise mention'd in my last, should have encourag'd the French to make a Trial with a Thirty gun ship, and one or two small arm'd Vessells which are, I am inform'd, now at Louisbourg and the Garrison should upon the sight of 'em be prevail'd on to surrender before our Vessells arrive.

I have also to inform your Lordships that with the unanimous Advice of his Majesty's Council for this Province I shall tomorrow publish a Declaration of War against the Cape Sable and St. John's Indians, who have join'd with the French in assaulting his Majesty's Garrison at Annapolis Royal and shall propose to the Assembly to give a Bounty of Scalp-money for every Indian of either of those Tribes, that shall be kill'd, which if obtained, and the Garrison should not be taken by a Sea Armament from Louisbourg, seems to promise a good Effect, as there is now at Annapolis a considerable party of Indians, under the command of a very good Officer from this province who with such Encouragement would in all probability rid the Government of Annapolis Royal of the Cape Sable Indians at least.

I just now receiv'd a Letter from your Lordships of the 9th of August which I shall answer by the first Opportunity, and have the honour to be with the highest respect, My Lords,

Your most Humble and most Obedient Servant

W. SHIRLEY.