

political party. In particular, they attacked the tonnage and tobacco dues as illegal. The first of these was a port-duty of fourteen pence per ton on vessels trading to the port and owned by non-residents, which formed part of the revenues of the Proprietary; and the other, a duty of one shilling a hogshead on all tobacco exported, most of which was paid to the Governor as his salary. There were also disputes about licenses to public ordinaries, hawkers, and other minor matters.

When the necessities of the war forced Sharpe to apply to the burghesses for supplies, the opposition became stubborn. While they would not put themselves in the position of absolutely refusing, they saddled their grants with conditions which Sharpe was compelled to reject. Among others, they insisted that the Proprietary's manors and reserved lands, though unoccupied, should bear a portion of the tax; and here Sharpe, not without misgivings, had to yield somewhat, for it was soon seen that the want of defence stopped the sale of the western lands, thus losing Baltimore much more money than his share of the tax amounted to.

The French and Indian war gave occasion for a violent outbreak of hostility to the Roman Catholics. Many, in their blind bigotry, looked upon every member of that faith as a possible spy and traitor, and professed to stand in dread of them, though they were only one twelfth of the population. This fanatical spirit Sharpe endeavored to restrain, with a fairness that does him credit, though he could see no injustice in the double tax laid upon those of the Roman faith. This contest continued throughout nearly the whole of Sharpe's administration, sometimes with considerable bitterness. In addition to these causes of irritation, the evident indifference of the Proprietary to any interests but his own and those of a few personal favorites, completely estranged the affections of the people, and prepared them for the separation which was soon to follow. Among the various schemes for raising money in the colonies without the consent of their Legislatures, over which Sharpe, in his strait, was constantly brooding, was that of a stamp tax, which was afterwards adopted, with unforeseen results.

After the defeat on the Monongahela, Dunbar, who succeeded Braddock in command, instead of making a stand at Ft. Cumberland or some other defensible place, retreated with his whole force, and did not stop until he reached Philadelphia, where he went into quarters. The whole western frontier was now open, for the garrison at Ft. Cumberland was small and isolated, and there was every reason to fear that all Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna, and all Virginia and Maryland west of the Shenandoah and Potomac, would be abandoned by the inhabitants. Sharpe hastened to the frontier, and by establishing small posts with a system of ranging parties, somewhat quieted the alarm. The next year the Assembly granted supplies for the war; and part of these funds he applied to building Fort Frederick, on the North Mountain, near the Potomac, about 4 miles E. of Licking Creek. The Indians had learned from the French how to approach and burn the stockade forts, so Sharpe faced the bastions and curtains with stone. This fort was of inestimable service in protecting the western frontier.