

On receiving this defiant address, the Governor prorogued the Assembly.

In the same year, 1768, Governor Sharpe was recalled by the Proprietary, who appointed in his place Robert Eden, the husband of Lady Caroline Calvert, Baltimore's sister. Baltimore, in his letter announcing this change, and indirectly through his secretary, expresses his high appreciation of Sharpe's energetic, intelligent and faithful service, and assures him that there would have been no thought of displacing him but for the claims of "fraternal affection," to which the secretary adds "the solicitation of relatives."

Horatio Sharpe was one of the best governors that colonial Maryland ever had. Intelligent, energetic, firm and conscientious, he maintained an equitable balance in his three-fold duties to the British crown, whose subject he was, to the Proprietary, whom he represented, and to the people whose welfare he had to protect and promote. He had had military training and experience as an officer in the British army, and it soon stood him in good stead. Shortly after he had taken his seat the French and Indian war broke out, and he was made commander-in-chief of all the forces in America operating against the French, until superseded by General Braddock. After the disaster on the Monongahela, Sharpe showed the utmost energy in the defence of the frontier, over which a host of the enemy and their savage allies were expected to pour. But his activities in peace and war can better be studied in the Assembly Journal and his correspondence.

Governor Eden was an exceedingly amiable man, and was highly esteemed, and his feelings toward the Marylanders with whom he was brought into contact were most friendly. During the agitation which was leading to independence he was long persuaded that the disaffected and mutinous were little more than a turbulent rabble, and that the men of influence and substance did not entertain such sentiments. His representations to this effect to the British ministry in the early stage of the war saved Maryland to a great extent from such raids as Dunmore was making on the Virginia coast. When, however, the Convention had assumed all powers, so that not even the shadow of authority was left him, and the colonies were plainly on the eve of declaring their independence, he abdicated his office and departed for England on board a royal frigate, on June 24, 1776, the principal gentlemen of Annapolis escorting him to the vessel in evidence of their personal esteem. After the conclusion of peace he revisited Maryland, and died in Annapolis in 1784.