



whom the British supposed were intoxicated by radical notions of rights and liberties. The colonists, meanwhile, struggled to find evidence that their governor had misrepresented their cause. While Bernard's letters were discussed by the cabinet, the king, and Parliament, Americans never had the opportunity to read them. That evidence is presented in full for the first time, in this fourth volume of the *Bernard Papers* series.

Reading the history of the Imperial Crisis requires scholars to delve beyond state papers, to explore the private papers of individuals and the newspapers of the day, and to construct representations of that past from the materials available. The editorial commentaries in the Bernard Papers cross-reference the transcripts of the governor's letters to accounts by the governor's critics, notably James Otis and Samuel Adams, the House of Representatives, the Boston town meeting, and the province Council. That process is complex and intricate, but it helps to explain why did the British government chose to believe Bernard's version of events over that of the Americans'. Otis and Adams were right: Bernard did indeed misrepresent their cause to the British.

FRONT COVER: *Castle William, Boston Harbor, 1773.*
The British Library.

Capt. William Pierie (d.1812), an officer in the Royal Artillery, produced several ink drawings of the environs of Boston harbor. Castle William was a British installation garrisoned by provincial soldiers whose batteries protected the channels in and out of the harbor. It was also a summer residence for Governor Bernard and his family. But in the summer of 1768, the Castle provided asylum to the officials of the American Board of Customs in the wake of the *Liberty* riot. Rumors abounded that local radicals were intent on seizing the Castle, whose fortifications were repaired in advance of the arrival of British soldiers in the autumn. British Regulars were housed in the Castle barracks for the next four years.

**OTHER RELATED VOLUMES PUBLISHED
BY THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS**

THE PAPERS OF FRANCIS BERNARD
GOVERNOR OF COLONIAL MASSACHUSETTS, 1760-1769

Volume I: 1759-1763 | Volume II: 1764-1765
Volume III: 1766-1767

Edited by Colin Nicolson

**HENRY HULTON AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION:
AN OUTSIDER'S INSIDE VIEW**

By Neil Longley York

PORTRAIT OF A PATRIOT

THE MAJOR POLITICAL AND LEGAL PAPERS OF JOSIAH QUINCY JUNIOR

Volumes I-VI

Edited by Daniel R. Coquillette and Neil Longley York

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF THOMAS HUTCHINSON

Volume I: 1740-1766

Edited by John W. Tyler and Elizabeth Dubrulle

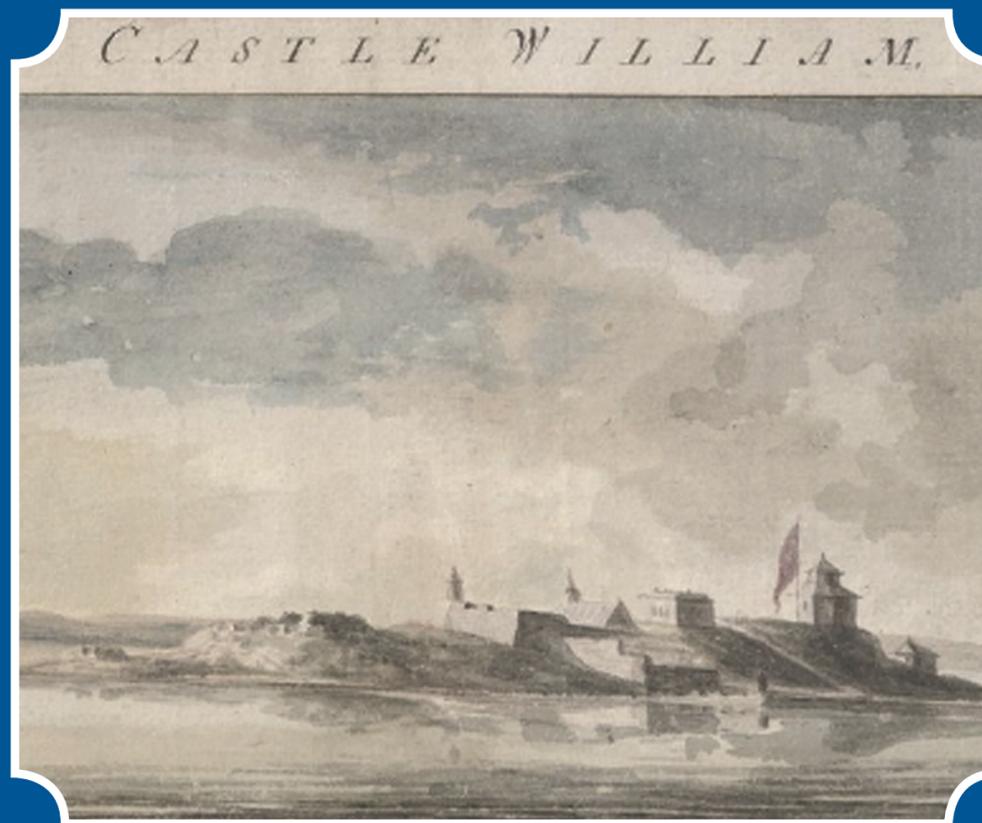
Distributed by the University of Virginia Press
www.upress.virginia.edu

The Bernard Papers

VOL. IV:
1768

The Papers of Francis Bernard

Governor of Colonial Massachusetts, 1760-69



VOLUME IV: 1768



CSM

EDITED BY COLIN NICOLSON

The Papers of Francis Bernard

Governor of Colonial Massachusetts,
1760-69



VOLUME IV: 1768

Governor Francis Bernard's historical reputation rests on his role in pushing the American colonists toward revolution. Bernard was the kind of government official without whom revolutions might not occur: a thwarted modernizer, despairing of metropolitan inertia and resentful of local power shifts that undermined his own authority, he sought and found retribution in a hostile portrayal of his opponents and critics. In 1768, the colonists and their governor vied to control information flowing to London. Bernard's detailed reports of riots and demonstrations in Boston proved so alarming to British ministers in London that they believed a revolt was near certain in the Massachusetts capital. Bernard triumphed in the war of information, convincing the British government to send regular troops to Boston to avert a possible insurrection and support the civil government. The *Bernard Papers* is not just the story of a beleaguered English colonialist, but also touches upon the lives of the men and women caught up in the events of the prerevolutionary years. In this volume we see Bostonians' participation the *Liberty* riot and nonimportation movement through the governor's eyes. His letters reveal the rambunctious, noisy, and self-confident crowds that sustained the colonial protest movement and the leaders

continued on back flap