

**George William Fairfax to George Washington, July 25, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM WILLIAM FAIRFAX, ESQ.**

WINCHESTER July 25th. 1758

DEAR SIR

Since my Arrival I have been much indisposed and am now troubed with slow Fevers every day. But yett was determined to try my old friends for you and Colo. Martin, and have scarcely time to acquaint you that we have succeeded in our Wish and that your Colleague sett of tomorrow to Attend the Assembly which is thought will be but Short.— Upon the Receipt of your favour I went to Mount Vernon in Order to assist Mr. Patterson with my advice if wanted. But I found every thing fraimed and prepared to put up. and when I was last their the Roof was Raised and they were larthing of it, so that I hope it will soon be coverd, but if any thing will prevent it, it will be for want of Shingles. But I expect John Gladin will soon be up with some. Triplett has made and burnt the Bricks and intends immediately to sett about the underpinning—I propose and shall Recommend their priming the weather boards as soon as possible to prevent Warping—and any thing else that I see to your interest <sup>1</sup>—I congratulate you on our Success to the Northward and hope we shall soon have the Dunkirk of No. America <sup>2</sup> in our hands, and I think I may Venture to say Mr. Pitt woud give it up for Minorca or any other Island, as his grand and favourite Object is these Colonies <sup>3</sup>—I have not time to add more than my best wishes attend you

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and that you may add Sprigs to your Laurels and sit down quiet and easy for the future on the banks of Potomack, which will be the greatest inducement to keep me on this side the water.

I am Dear Sir your very humble Servt. WM. FAIRFAX

Pray excuse haste our Horses being at the door

1 Details of the rebuilding of the mansion at Mount Vernon.

2 Louisbourg.

3 Our forefathers bear testimony that we should ever honor the name of William Pitt Earl of Chatham, as our staunch friend. "It was the zeal of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, that had produced a change in the Counsels of his Majesty's ministers respecting America. He stipulated that the colonial troops should be supplied with arms, ammunition, tents, and provisions, in the same manner as the regular troops, and at the King's expense; so that the only charge to the colonies would be that of levying, clothing, and paying the men. The governors were, also, authorized to issue commissions to provincial officers, from Colonels downwards, and these officers were to hold rank in the united army according to their commissions. He had from the first requested and secured the hearty cooperation from the Colonial Assemblies, and had his liberal and just system been adopted at the outset it would have put a different face upon the military affairs of the colonies." —SPARKS.