

men for that purpose.”¹ This was but the suggestion of a fact soon to follow.

On 9th April, 1746, Newcastle despatched letters by the sloop of war *Hickingbrook*² to the governors of all the provinces from New England to Virginia. The packet with the royal orders reached Governor Shirley on 26th May, and he immediately forwarded the documents to the different governments by land expresses. He evinced his own interest by his personal correspondence, in which he urged co-operation. He was very zealous for the cause, and hoped that the Massachusetts-Bay government would set a good example to the others. The royal orders required the several governments to raise as large a body of men as the shortness of the time would warrant. The King did not limit the number of men for each province, neither did he require special allotments. But he hoped and expected that the united levies would not be less than five thousand.³

The scheme concerted in England varied very little from the suggestions which had been forwarded previously from America. It was agreed that the land forces should be commanded by Lieut.-Gen. Sinclair,⁴ while Rear-Admiral Warren was to look after the royal fleet. The plan of operations was not made irrevocable. Sinclair, Warren and Shirley were entrusted with such alterations as circumstances would require or good judgment might suggest. By the original instructions the companies raised in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia were to rendezvous at Albany. The command of this contingent was given to William Gooch, Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia; but he pleaded indisposition, and declined to serve. Governor George Clinton, of New York, who was virtually responsible for the success of this part of the plan, appointed Lieutenant-Colonel John Roberts as Gooch's successor.⁵ From

¹ *Chalmers' Papers*, as before.

² So in *Mass. Journal*, 29th May, 1746. Also spelled Hinchinbrook in Penn. "Notes," vol. iv (*Phila.* 1774), p. 37.

³ Hutchinson. *Hist. of Mass.*, 3rd edit., vol. II, p. 381.

⁴ Gen. James Sinclair (also written St. Clair) was the second son of Henry, eighth Lord Sinclair. He entered the army at an early age, and rose in the ranks, becoming lieutenant-general on 4th June, 1745, and had command of the British troops in Flanders, prior to the appointment for this Canadian expedition. He died 30th November, 1762, while governor of Cork, Ireland.

⁵ *N. Y. Col. Docs.*, vol. VI, p. 314. Roberts was an experienced soldier,⁴ having served since the days of George I. He was also connected by his first marriage to the Earl of Halifax.