This second volume of the Bernard Papers covers the full onset of resistance to Parliament’s stamp tax, which climaxed in violent riots during August 1765. The Stamp Act controversy was the beginning of a ten-year contest—the Imperial Crisis—that radicalized the American colonists, leading them to question and then to challenge imperial authority, and to engage in revolution. An essential ingredient in the transformation, which has often been ignored, was the role of British imperial officials like Francis Bernard in alienating the colonists. Most other colonial governors crumbled in the face of overwhelming resistance to the Stamp Act, but Bernard did not retreat gracefully. He fought and berated the colonial radicals most every step of the way. Bernard’s story is worth retelling, not only for its own sake, but for what it reveals about the lives and times of Britons and Americans caught up in one of history’s true turning points.

Owen Dudley Edwards, retired Reader in Commonwealth and American History at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, writes: "This volume maintains the excellent standards of its predecessor and . . . is on a par with the great editions of Presidential Papers and Papers of the Founding Fathers with which American historians have achieved unrivalled quality. . . . The unity imposed on this volume by history gives its subject a unique interest. Although it contains many relevant letters to Gov. Francis Bernard, he is our chief scribe, and the totality of documents gives us a fascinating view of the American Revolution from a witness shrewdly observing its progress while desperately trying to prevent it. Bernard emerges as a vivid reporter who will hold a much wider audience than mere specialist historians. Unlike the great Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, and other prominent American enlightenment, Francis Bernard’s letters are a wealth of anecdotes, which give his child the sense of a man who can医疗卫生和高收入。他的故事——一个不循常规、坚韧不拔的美国人的故事——将吸引读者的同情，同时提供无法回答的证据，证明英国的统治阶级已经无法应对美国的智力挑战。 . . . 这一问题的延误可能是数月甚至数年，因为当邮船偏离航线时，书籍和文件的传递可能会延迟。因此， 科林·尼克尔森的排版工作让我们得以一窥政府的现实，而弗朗西斯·伯纳德则在努力设计适合不同读者目的的论点。 . . . 这一卷因此提供了最好的历史服务。 . . . 它对任何美国历史图书馆都不可或缺。"

The editor, Colin Nicolson, lectures at the University of Stirling, Scotland.

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Governor of Colonial Massachusetts, 1760-69

Volume II: 1764-1765

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