

## Portrait of William Pitt, 1771

A PORTRAIT of William Pitt, signed by Revere, is represented by an unique example in the American Antiquarian Society. It appears on a broadside entitled "A Speech of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Chatham," with the imprint "Printed by Edes & Gill, 1771." The broadside is  $16\frac{1}{4}$  inches high by  $11\frac{3}{4}$  wide, to the outside of the print. The oval portrait at the top is  $3\frac{9}{16}$  by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches, with the inscription "The Right Honble. William Pitt. Esqr.," and signed "P Revere sculp." (See Plate no. 26.)

Pitt's speech, reprinted in four columns, was delivered in the House of Lords on November 22, 1770, and the news of it reached Boston so that it was printed by Edes & Gill in the *Boston Gazette* of February 4, 1771. In the same issue is this announcement: "At the Desire of a Number of our Readers, we shall publish Lord Chatham's Speech in a separate Sheet on Wednesday next, with an elegant Copper Plate Print of that great Patriot at the Head of it."

Revere undoubtedly copied the print from some English magazine, but not as yet located by me. There was a similar print in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of March, 1770, but quite different in design.