

[he further charged the surveyor with permitting such persons as would pay him for it, to cut down the trees which were said to belong to the king.

The surveyor thereupon preferred his memorial to the governor and council, justifying himself in the discharge of his trust, and complaining of Mr. Cooke, one of the members of the council, for officiously concerning himself with the affairs of the surveyor's office, and obstructing his measures for the service of the crown. Mr. Cooke had many friends in the house ready to support him, and this dispute was the beginning of the public controversy which continued until the end of Colonel Shute's administration; parties were formed, new subjects for contention from time to time were furnished, until at length the governor was forced to leave the province.

We do not find any vote of council upon this memorial, but the governor espoused the cause of the surveyor, and, to shew his resentment against Mr. Cooke, when the list of counsellors was presented at the next election, directed his speech to him in particular, and let him know he would excuse him from attending at the board for the ensuing year.

(*Anno* 1718.)—Mr. Cooke, soon after, presented his memorial to the council, in which he justified his own conduct, and charged Mr. Bridges with “using his utmost efforts to invade the rights and properties of the people in the province of Maine by his exorbitant actions, as well as basely betraying the trust the crown had invested him with, by daily selling and bartering the very logs and timber, which he gave out was the king's, his master, whose bread he then eat.” The council suffered the memorial to lay upon their table, but acted nothing upon it. Afterwards, upon the appointment of a committee by the house, they joined a committee of council to consider in general of Mr. Bridges's conduct. This committee, in their report, justified Mr. Cooke, and condemned the proceedings of the surveyor. The council put off the consideration of this report also, but the house voted their acceptance of it. The governor, of course, transmitted to the board of trade an account of all these proceedings, and very soon received an answer, censuring the house of representatives for countenancing and encouraging Mr. Cooke. This being laid before the house, they by a vote declared that a censure of the board of trade was occasioned “by sending home the papers on one side only, whereby their lordships were informed *ex parte*.” The house had avoided any direct attack upon the governor until this vote, many of the principal members this year being well

affected to him, but the party, without doors, especially in Boston, had been increasing against him, and, at the next election for that town, they sent all new members, and a change was made in many other towns, unfavourable to the governor's interest.

The famous projector Captain Coram, in the year 1718, was busy in a scheme for settling Nova Scotia and the lands between Nova Scotia and the province of Maine, and a petition was preferred by Sir Alexander Cairnes, James Douglass, and Joshua Gee, in behalf of themselves and others, praying for a grant upon the sea-coast five leagues *s. w.* and five leagues *n. e.* of Chibuctow harbour, where they proposed to build a town, and to improve the country round it in raising hemp, in making pitch, tar, and turpentine, and they undertook to settle a certain number of families to consist of 200 persons in three years, the rest of his Majesty's subjects not to be prohibited fishing on the coasts under regulations. To this petition, Mr. Dummer, the Massachusetts agent, objected, because of the last clause, which laid a restraint upon the fishery. The lords of trade, however, reported in favour of it, but it stopped in council.

Another petition was preferred by William Armstrong and others who had been officers and soldiers in the army, “praying for a grant of the lands between Nova Scotia and the province of Maine, the said tract of land having been conquered by the French in 1696 and possessed by them until 1710, when it was recovered by the English, and by the treaty of Utrecht was with Nova Scotia given up by France to the British crown.” The conquest in 1696 was the taking Pemaquid fort, and holding possession of the harbour two or three days. This, however, was made a serious affair, and the agent, Mr. Dummer, was several times heard before the lords of trade. The general court being restrained from conveying these lands without consent of the crown, it was proposed, that if they would consent to resign the jurisdiction between Kennebeck and Penobscot, the crown should confirm the property of the soil, but upon the proposal's being communicated to the court, they instructed their agent to make no concessions.

One Sarah Watts, setting forth that she was heir at law to Thomas Goffe, deputy governor and one of the 26 patentees of the old colony, claimed a 26th part of the colony, and the issues and profits for 80 or 90 years. She filed a bill of complaint in chancery against the province, and there was a commission of sequestration for several New England ships in the river, which cost the owners several guineas each to the sharpers who]