

which the usual channel of commerce was altered, in order that you might ensnare the people and oblige them to rescind ; but people who had been thwarted and provoked for some years, were not very tractable. The new measures produced a riot in Boston, and some goods were destroyed by the populace. Instead of enquiring into the matter, or demanding justice in the usual form ; that justice which had never been refused on former occasions, the whole town of Boston, unheard and untried, was immediately condemned to suffer that kind of extreme, inadequate punishment which favours of revenge rather than correction, which resembles the bitterness of an enemy rather than the frowns of a parent. The mischief did not stop there : an indigent, seditious governor had laboured for some years to gain the favour of his superiors, by contriving mischief to his native country, and though he was detected in his schemes, though it was known that he had been disappointed and soured, that he hated his countrymen and was mutually hated by them, yet his counsel was adopted ; to him did you give an attentive ear, as whilom our unhappy grandame listened to the other enemy of our species. The charter of Massachusetts was changed without necessity, without provocation. By that single stroke every other province was informed that nothing was sacred or secure. This was only the beginning of their calamities, for an act was passed which may be entitled, an act to encourage and enable soldiers, custom-house officers, and tide waiters

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