

1756. tion of General Shirley, it was owing to my appro-  
 bation of his schemes, as conducive to the common  
 weal of the British plantations: and if my judge-  
 ment was in this regard erroneous, I have the plea-  
 sure to find myself in very respectable company.  
 Except New York, or rather a prevailing faction  
 there, all the colonies hold him in very high esteem.  
 Some have made public declarations of their sense  
 of his great merit; and that too, at a time when  
 he appeared descending from his meridian of glory.  
 But he needed no other than the testimonials of his  
 own province; for he, my Lord, whose conduct is  
 approved by the people of the Massachusetts Bay,  
 must be distinguished both for his abilities and his  
 virtue. They are too numerous and wise to be de-  
 ceived, too free and independent to be driven. An  
 undue influence can never be obtained by the go-  
 vernor of a colony, who has neither power nor pla-  
 ces to bestow. --- Their assemblies are annual --- the  
 members elected by ballot, in number near 200. ---  
 The council, or middle estate, chosen yearly by the  
 assembly: --- and as all the offices are elective, not  
 a man in the province is dependent on the smiles or  
 the frowns of the King's representative: --- and yet  
 so wise, free, and loyal a people have approved his  
 judgment; confided in his integrity; testified in  
 his favour; and publickly lamented his departure  
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