

evaded by the Americans, and to enforce them was the constant endeavour of the British Parliament. Severe rules were passed for this purpose, and heavy penalties imposed upon all who should disobey them, but with little or no effect. "The laws of Navigation were no where so openly disobeyed and contemned as in New England. The people of Massachusetts Bay, having a governor and magistrates of their own choice, it was difficult to enforce any regulation which came from the English Parliament adverse to their interests."

Virginia petitioned against the act; but receiving only stricter injunctions to comply with it, resorted to evasion. But in Massachusetts a declaration of rights was published, "in which are distinctly shadowed out the three great doctrines on which their sovereignty rested:—1st. A positive denial of the right of appeal. 2nd. A declaration that acts of Parliament regulating their trade were unconstitutional. 3rd. An assertion of their peculiar privilege of managing their own internal affairs. These three principles, accompanied as they were by a direct avowal of the legality of maintaining them by force of arms, comprise absolute independence. They are wholly irreconcilable with any thing like imperial control, and leave to the King nothing but an empty title. It is therefore absurd to ascribe the origin of these pretensions to the Revolution of 1783. They thus early asserted and contended for unmixed and uncontrollable Republicanism."

Duties however were now levied upon certain enumerated commodities; and the management of the revenue entrusted to local officers appointed by the Commissioners of Customs in England, and a Custom House Officer appointed for Massachusetts. But encountering obstruction and insult from the people, he returned unsuccessful; and when again sent out, was again forced to return. He, however, laid serious complaints against the colony; and as the King was already greatly irritated at their non-compliance with certain instructions received from him, (one of which was that they should admit episcopals to the enjoyment of the same political rights as were exercised by themselves,) a *quo warranto* was issued, which put an end to their charter in 1684.