

bery and corruption to be very easily received; but, in times when party spirit prevails, what will not a governor's enemies believe, however injurious and absurd? At such a time he was charged with dispensing *summum jus* to Leisler, and incurring an aggravated guilt of blood beyond that of a common murderer. The other party, no doubt, would have charged the failure of justice upon him if Leisler had been acquitted. His cringing to Randolph, when in his heart he despised him, was a spot in his character; and his secret insinuations, to the disadvantage of his country, was a greater; both being for the sake of recommending himself to court favour. We think it is no more than justice to his character, to allow that he had as many virtues as can consist with so great a thirst for honour and power.

His life would afford convincing evidence, if there was any doubt, that an humble calm mind enjoys more happiness in private life than an ambitious anxious mind in the highest station. No man in this history had seen more of the *temporum varietates fortunæque vicissitudines* which Cicero, in one of his epistles to Lucceius, says, afford a pleasing narration, however irksome to the man who has the experience of them.

Colonel Tailer's strong attachment to the bank party procured him the administration for a few months; but was the cause of his losing his commission for lieutenant-governor immediately after. It was supposed, we know not upon what grounds, that Colonel Burgess would favour the same party, and his arrival was every day wished for by them; whilst the other party dreaded it, and laboured to prevent it. It was said also, that, in other respects, he would by no means be agreeable to the country; a gentleman of a more grave serious turn of mind would be more likely to be happy here himself, and to render the people so. Mr. Belcher, after-

wards governor, who was very opposite to the bank party, was then in London, he joined with Mr. Dummer, the agent, and they engaged Sir William Ashurst with them, and prevailed upon Burgess for 1000*l.* sterling, which Belcher and Dummer advanced equally between them, to resign his commission, that Colonel Shute might be appointed in his stead. Colonel Tailer's friends had endeavoured to engage Ashurst in his favour, but to no purpose; the same interest obtained the lieutenant-governor's commission for Mr. William Dummer, a New England gentleman, who had married a daughter of Mr. Dummer, one of the commissioners at Plymouth, and was in some post there himself; but, his wife dying, he had returned to his native country.

Colonel Shute's family were, generally, dissenters; his father an eminent citizen in London; his mother, daughter of Mr. Caryl, a dissenting minister of great note. His brother, afterwards Lord Burrington, was then a member of parliament, and at the head of the dissenting interest. The colonel began his education under Mr. Charles Morton, who, about the year 1684, came to New England, and was minister of Charlestown. After tuition under him he was sent to Leyden. He went after that into the army under King William, who made him a captain, served under the Duke of Marlborough, was a lieutenant-colonel, and wounded in one of the principal battles in Flanders. He had a good acquaintance, and was well esteemed at court; had the character of a friend to liberty, and was of an open, generous, and humane disposition. A governor of his character might be supposed to be welcome to New England men, but the interest of party prevails over all other considerations, and virtue, religion, private friendship, and public good, are all, at times, sacrificed to promote it.]