

THE
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OF
AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES.

MASSACHUSETTS.

[CHAP. VI.]

*From the arrival of Governor Shute in 1716,
to the arrival of Governor Belcher in 1730.*

(Anno 1716).—COLONEL Shute arrived at Boston, October the 4th, 1716, in a merchant ship, and was received with the usual parade. He made the opposers of the bank his first acquaintance, the old governor's family in particular, and took his lodgings at Mr. Paul Dudley's. He had received very unfavourable impressions of the other party from Mr. Belcher and Mr. Dummer, in England, and was considered, from his first arrival, as an enemy to the scheme, and the heads of the party were the heads of an opposition during the whole of his administration. In his first speech to the general court, November 7, he puts them in mind of the bad state of the trade of the province, an important article of any people's happiness, owing, as he supposed, to the great scarcity of money, and recommends the consideration of some effectual measures to supply this want, and thereby to restore trade to a flourishing condition. This was pointing out to them a further emission of government's bills, and the representatives, pleased with so easy a method of obtaining money, soon determined upon a second loan of 100,000*l.* for 10 years, to be put into the hands of commissioners appointed for each county in proportion to their taxes. This provision being made by the

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government, there was the less pretence for private persons or companies issuing their bills; but it gave no relief to the trade, the whole currency soon depreciating to that degree, as, with this addition, to answer the purposes of money very little more than if it had not been made. The governor became sensible of it, and recommended to them to provide against it, which they were not able to do, and many of them would not have been willing if they had been able, being in debt, and by means of the depreciation discharging their debts by a nominal sum, perhaps of not more than one half of the real value of the debts. He soon found the effects of it upon his own salary, which they refused to advance as the bills sunk, and having recommended this measure in a public speech it became more difficult afterwards to refuse repeating it.

The province had been at war with the *e. Indians*, except some short intervals, for about 40 years. The prospect of a long peace between Great Britain and France encouraged it to hope for the like with the Indians, who had always been under French influence, but their father, Rallé, a jesuit, was constantly instigating them to insult and annoy the new settlers, who, he pretended, encroached upon the lands of the Indians, and by supplying them with strong drink debauched their morals and prevented the progress of the good work he had began among them. A]

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