

praying for its success. The boldness of the proposal astonished every one. It was referred to a committee, who reported against it. This report, after some debate, was accepted by a considerable majority, and it was supposed that the subject was put to rest. The Governor, however, was not thus to be defeated; he was a man of perseverance as well as decision. James Gibson he knew to be a man of weighty character as well as weighty purse.

"After a few days," says Mr. Gibson, "I saw the Governor walking slowly down King Street, with his head bent down, as if in deep study. He entered my counting-room, and abruptly said, 'Gibson, do you feel like giving up the expedition to Louisburg?' 'I wish the vote might be reconsidered,' was my reply; 'For unless the colonies make a bold strike, we may all suffer the same fate of Canso and Annapolis.'"

"'You are the very man I need,' said the Governor, springing from his chair. 'I have been thinking, if a petition were drawn up and signed by the merchants of Boston, asking a reconsideration of the whole matter, the result would be successful.'"

Before he left, Sir William had the pleasure of seeing the petition drawn up and signed by one bold man, and before night it was ready for presentation.

The next day it was read in the General Court, and another committee voted a reconsideration. This report was argued two whole days; during which time, its advocates presented the prospect of success, and the advantages Massachusetts would receive from it, the importance of immediate action, and the certainty that they would be amply remunerated by Parliament, when it was known to his Majesty what proof of loyalty his American subjects had given.

On the other side, it was argued with much greater plausibility, that the scheme was chimerical, that inexperienced militia could never reduce so impregnable a fortress, that by reason of fogs and ice the island could not be approached at that season of the year, that they should incur the displeasure of Parliament by such a rash undertaking, that the province was exhausted by previous campaigns, and if this were unsuccessful, it would prove its utter ruin. The question was taken on the 26th of January, and the expedition was voted by a majority of a single vote; several members who were known to be opposed being absent. No sooner, however, was this done than a degree of unanimity upon the subject generally prevailed; and those who had previously opposed it, like true patriots, came