

for, or excuse my long silence, and excite your compassion and advice.

Our friend Robinson is gone to Boston to join the commissioners. My compliments to Col. Stuart.—May I ask the favour of you both to come and eat a Xmas dinner with me at Batchelor's hall, and celebrate the festivity of the season with me in Narraganset woods. A covey of partridges, or bevy of quails, will be entertainment for the Colonel and me, while the pike and perch ponds amuse you.—Should business or pre-engagement prevent me that pleasure, permit me to ask the favour of your earliest intelligence of the proceedings of parliament; and of your opinion whether our case is not so grievous as to excite their compassion and interposition were it known. This narration, together with your own knowledge of many of the facts, and the disposition of the colonies in general, will refresh your memory, and enable you to form a judgment. Relief from home seems so tedious, especially to us who have suffered so much, like to suffer more, and unacquainted with their reasons of delay, that I am quite impatient.

Above twelve months ago, I received from three Gentlemen in London (in trust for several others) exemplified accounts for a balance of above twenty-six thousand pounds sterling, mostly due from this colony, not £. 50 of which shall I ever be able to recover without compulsive measures, and what is still worse, my lawyer advises me from all thoughts of prosecution, unless a change of government ensues. I am therefore obliged to send them his opinion (in
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