

always have their respective Agents at Court, who may be heard by Petition before the Bill passes into an Act. To which I answer, First, That sometimes they have Agents here, and at other Times they have not. Next, That a Bill may pass into an Act without the Knowledge of the Agents, they having no Citation. This had once like to have been the Case, when a Bill of this Nature was formerly brought into the House of Commons; and certainly had prov'd so, if the Agent for *New-England* had at that nice Juncture been indispos'd in his Health, or but a Day's Journey out of Town, or if he had not been more than ordinarily active and diligent when he was in Town. And lastly, I must observe that Agents are only instructed in Things that fall within the ordinary Course of Business, and when any Thing of a new and extraordinary Nature is brought on the Carpet, they have a general Instruction to pray for Time in order to notify their Principals, and receive their special Commands. Besides, it's well known that the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations were, at the Time before-mentioned, prepared to urge many Complaints both new and old; to which Facts it had been impossible for any Agent to answer *ore tenus*, without being ever appriz'd of them.

To conclude, What *these Governments* desire of their Superiours at Home is, That they may not be judg'd and condemn'd unheard. And I cannot but flatter my self they will obtain it, whether I consider the Reasonableness of the Demand it self, or the celebrated Justice and Lenity of His Majesty's Government; or the Importance of the Thing in Question to the Provinces concern'd. I mention this last Particular, being sure they would reckon the Loss of their Privileges a greater Calamity, than if their Houses were all in Flames at once. Nor can they be justly blam'd, the one being a repairable Evil, but the other irreparable. Burnt Houses may rise again out of their Ashes, and even more beautiful than before, but 'tis to be fear'd that Liberty *once lost, is lost for ever.*

THUS I have ventur'd into the World my Thoughts on the *New-England* Charters; happy! if my imperfect Essay may provoke some learned Pen to do full Justice to the Subject, which yet in the great
Scarcity