

[enough suppose the party to be very numerous. Some, no doubt, joined them from mistaken principles, and an apprehension that it was a scheme beneficial to the public, and some for party sake and popular applause.

Three of the representatives of Boston, Mr. Cooke, son to the agent we have so often mentioned, Mr. Noyes, a gentleman in great esteem with the inhabitants in general, and Mr. Payne, were the supporters of the party. Mr. Hutchinson, the other (an attempt to leave him out of the house not succeeding) was sent from the house to the council, where his opposition would be of less consequence. The governor was no favourer of the scheme, but the lieutenant-governor, a gentleman of no great fortune, and whose stipend from the government was trifling, engaged in this cause with great zeal.

A third party, though very opposite to the private bank, yet were no enemies to bills of credit. They were in favour of a loan of bills from the government to any of the inhabitants who would mortgage their estates as a security for the repayment of the bills, with interest, in a term of years, the interest to be paid annually, and applied to the support of government. This was an easy way of paying public charges, which, no doubt, they wondered, that in so many ages the wisdom of other governments had never discovered. The principal men of the council were in favour of it, and it being thought by the first party the least of the two evils, they fell in with the scheme, and, after that, the country was divided between the public and private bank. The house of representatives was nearly equally divided, but rather favourers of the private bank, from the great influence of the Boston members in the house, and a great number of persons of the town, out of it. The controversy had an universal spread, and divided towns, parishes, and particular families.

(*Anno 1714.*)—At length, after a long struggle, the party for the public bank prevailed in the general court for a loan of 50,000*l.* in bills of credit, which were put into the hands of trustees, and lent for five years only to any of the inhabitants at five per cent. interest, one fifth part of the principal to be paid annually. This lessened the number of the party for the private bank, but it increased the zeal and raised a strong resentment in those which remained.

A vessel which arrived at Boston from Ireland the 15th of September, brought the first news of the death of the queen, and the accession of King George I. and two days after a vessel arrived from some part of Great Britain with the printed pro-

clamation in the London Gazette. This the governor thought sufficient warrant, without express orders, for proclaiming the king in the province. The practice in the colonies has not been uniform on the like occasions. At New Hampshire, the king was proclaimed from the same intelligence, the 22d of September; at Rhode island the 29th; at New York the 11th of October; at New Haven, in Connecticut, the 14th; at Philadelphia the 27th; no express orders being received in any of those places; but at Annapolis Royal it was delayed until the 2d of December. The propriety of proceeding without express orders has been questioned, but the absurdity of acts of government in the name and by authority of a prince, for months together, after certain intelligence of their demise, has generally influenced the governors to proceed.

The secret designs of Queen Ann's last ministry were no where more suspected, nor more dreaded, than in the Massachusetts; and the 1st of August was no where celebrated with greater joy during the whole of the king's reign.

The Hazard sloop, sent express from England with orders to the government, was lost upon Cohasset rocks, the 12th of November: the vessel being stove to pieces and no papers of any consequence saved; only enough were washed ashore to make certain what vessel it was, and one man had been landed and left at Nantucket. Six months from the king's accession expired, and no orders had arrived for continuing officers in their posts. The authority of the governor began to be called in question. By the charter, upon the death, removal, or absence of the governor or lieutenant-governor, and there being no person commissioned as governor within the province, in such cases the government devolves upon the council or the major part of them. The council deriving their authority from charter, and not from a royal commission, the act of parliament limiting the continuance in office to six months after the death of a prince, it was supposed, could not affect their authority. The advice of the miscarriage of the first orders went the first opportunity to England, and new orders were daily expected, and some were inclined to wait; but, on the 4th of February, the council assumed the government, the lieutenant-governor, being of the council, joining with the rest, and issued a proclamation for all officers to continue in their posts, &c.

An instruction had been given by the queen, in 1707, directing, that in case of the death or absence of the governor and lieutenant-governor, the eldest counsellor should preside in the province;]