

sound policy was thought to require, that both a severe and a speedy punishment should be inflicted—severe, that it might bear some proportion to the guilt; and speedy, that it might prevent the like mischief in other instances.

Many, I know, who admit that Boston ought to have been punished, yet exclaim loudly against the punishment decreed by Parliament, as being too severe in its manner. And if any other punishment had been inflicted, many of them, I dare say, would have exclaimed still. For when people are once disaffected towards an administration, whether with or without just reason, they will always find some pretence for blaming any measure that can be taken by it.

As to the *severity* of the punishment in question, it was no more than shutting up a port, till satisfaction should be made for a flagrant injury and insult, of which it had been guilty. While this restraint was laid, a free use of all the neighbouring ports was allowed; so that no people but the inhabitants of the town of *Boston* were intended to be punished by this act; and a sufficient time was indulged *them* to remove all their vessels out of their harbour, that they might be usefully employed during the restraint of their port. And as soon as compensation should be made for the injury done, and a proper acknowledgment of the offence committed, every appearance shews that government intended to be satisfied, and to remove the punishment. For provision was made, that, on such an event, the King might immediately suspend the operation of the act, without waiting for the meeting, or the formal proceedings of the Parliament, which might require time. Surely none, who have as high
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