

London, 19th December, 1747.

Mr. Robson,

“THE gentlemen have received your letter,
 “and cannot pay your bill until they have
 “had some discourse with you touching your
 “draughts, and some other things that lie before
 “them; and therefore they desire you to attend
 “on Wednesday the 13th of January next at ten
 “o’clock in the morning.”

Your humble servant,

Charles Hay secretary.

I attended accordingly, and demonstrated by the models in the committee room, that my method of conducting the building was right, and the governor’s wrong. The committee acknowledged it to be so: yet such is their partiality for their principal officers, that all present, except Sir Atwell Lake, treated me with great rigour and disrespect: and governor Knap in particular said, “That they found their fort was spoiled and
 “good for nothing, and that I had a great hand
 “in building it.” This ungenerous speech shocked me, as it retracted the acknowledgement they had just before unanimously made, and seemed calculated to withdraw the attention of the rest from the demonstrative evidence I had given, that my skill and care had been usefully exerted. In vain I urged the integrity of my conduct, and remonstrated that by my invariable attention to the Company’s interest, I had exposed myself to the resentment and cruelty of the governor, whose behaviour to me rendered my manner of life almost intolerable, and that not for a day or a week, but for years; my arguments