

The 1st Charge against the Charter Governments, that they have neglected the Defence of the Inhabitants, answered.

THE first Charge in the Bill against the Charter Governments is, that they have neglected the Defence of the Inhabitants. This I must own, if true, and such Neglect was voluntary, while they had the Means and Power of Defence in their Hands, was a high and treasonable Breach of their Trust, and would be the strongest Argument that could be brought for a Resumption of the Charters. But now if I should prove that these Governments, especially the *Massachusetts* and *Connecticut*, have in all past Times defended the Inhabitants both by Sea and Land, as well against the *French* as *Indian* Enemy: If I shall prove that they have all the late War protected one of the *King's* Provinces lying on their Confines, which would otherwise inevitably have been lost; and that another of those Provinces took no Part in the War, but maintain'd a shameful Neutrality with the Enemy, whereby the whole Weight of the War fell on the *Massachusetts*; If I shall prove that they have frequently carry'd offensive Arms into the *French* Territories, and made one important Conquest, since annex'd to the *British* Crown; and that all this was done at their own vast Expence; then, I hope, *New-England* will stand fairly acquitted of this suppos'd Crime of neglecting to Defend the Inhabitants, and be allow'd not only irreprehensible in this respect, but to have highly merited of the Crown and Nation.

THESE FACTS are so certain and so well known, that I'm persuaded this had never been assign'd as a Reason for dissolving the Charters, but with a special View to *Carolina*, which, when this Bill was brought into the House, was reduc'd to extremity by a War with the *Spanish* Indians; and being neither able to defend themselves, nor obtain Succours from the Lord's Proprietors, address'd the Crown to take them under its Protection. It was therefore natural enough to mention this in the Bill; tho' with humble Submission, it being the single Case of one Proprietary Colony, it should small Reason have been restrain'd to that, and not extended to the Charter Provinces, which are neither alike constituted, nor were in the same Distress. For *New-England*, as I shall presently shew, has defended itself from

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