

obedience to beneficial and injurious orders—The New England colonies renew their confederation—Effect of it—Complaints of English merchants against the infraction of the laws of trade—The oath of allegiance ordered to be taken, and the King's arms set up—Agents sent to England, but ordered to yield nothing—A custom-house officer appointed—Opposition to him—He is obliged to return to England—General Court re-enacts trade laws—Its members take modified official oaths—Collector sent out again, but they threaten to execute him—Is obliged to quit the colony—General gloom in Massachusetts—People terrified by comets—The credentials of agents found deficient—They offer a bribe of two thousand guineas to the King—Agents return, and are followed by Randolph with the *Quo Warranto*—General Court refuses to surrender the Charter—Their arguments—They again petition and pretend there has been no service of the writ—Judgment given against them—Remarks on their conduct—Natural effects of dissent.

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BOOK II.

CHAPTER I.

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