[illegible]

[illegible] of the merchants of Great-Britain [illegible] trading to North-America to Sunday's London Gazette.

"To the king's most excellent majesty.

"The humble petition of several natives of America,

"Sheweth

"That your majesty's petitioners are natives of your dominions in America, and bear most true and dutiful allegiance to your majesty's royal person and family.

"That allegiance and protection being reciprocal, your petitioners look up to your majesty for protection under the common law of the land, which is their birth-right.

"That according to law, no man can be condemned to punishment without being call'd upon to answer, or opportunity of hearing the evidence against him, and defending his innocence. That it is contrary to the law, and of every principle of natural justice, to inflict for the moral offence, calumnies to alienate him and posterity, with unexampled severity, upon your majesty's good town of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts-Bay, the last town being perfectly innocent of the proceedings, and not heard in its defence. That this will, if it escape your majesty's mind, immediately take away from the inhabitants of the town of Boston the use of property to the amount of several hundred thousand pounds, either in stores, warehouses, &c. will remain many thousands of your majesty's subjects from procuring subsistence for themselves and their families, in their ordinary occupations; may endanger the tranquillity of violent commotions from so many men rendered desperate, by being deprived of their daily bread; and, what cannot fail to the last violence to the most justice, will punish the innocent for the guilty.

"Your majesty's petitioners most humbly remember, that this bill is the more unjust, as the tumults it seems to punish, have not been prosecuted in the courts of common law in America, where they, according to law, are the offences, if offences, cognizable. That the mere passing of this bill is totally unnecessary to the ends of justice, provided your majesty's servants in America are kept to the rules of law, without being diverted from them, and unless a little time is allowed for the people to recover from the effects of popular injustice, and, perhaps, also, to know, if it be your majesty's pleasure, if the Massachusetts-Bay, a fair trial and favourable verdict.

"Your Majesty's petitioners, to therefore most humbly pray, that your majesty will be graciously pleased to withdraw your royal displeasure, as it will, concerned to condemn and punish their countrymen unheard, and form a precedent which will take away every security and protection, under the law, from all your majesty's subjects in America.

"And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

William Lee.	Walter Tooke.
B. [illegible]	Edward Fairweather.
John [illegible]	Thomas Pownall.
[illegible]	Wm. Middleton, jun.
William [illegible]	John Boylston.
Robert [illegible]	John Bellamine,
Charles [illegible]	John Ward.
Isaac [illegible]	Jos. Johnson,
Thomas Baker.	John Hobson,
William Middleton.	Daniel Bowley.
[illegible]	John Pedrick,
[illegible]	Arthur Lee.
Joh. Williams.	John Pomfret,
Robert Ward, jun.	Wm. [illegible]
Philip [illegible]	James Blanchard.
[illegible]	

From the LONDON GAZETTE, of April [illegible]

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

THE following act of parliament, passed in the present session, and which takes place in the first of June next, is printed for the information of the merchants of Great-Britain and Ireland trading to North-America, viz.

An act to discontinue, in the manner and for the time therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping of goods, wares, or merchandise, at the town and within the harbour of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts-Bay, in North-America.

WHEREAS dangerous commotions and insurrections have been fomented and raised in the town of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, by divers ill-affected persons, to the interruption of his majesty's government, and to the interruption of the public peace, and good order of the said town, in which commotions and insurrections several valuable cargoes of tea, being the property of the East-India company, and in board certain vessels lying within the bay or harbour of Boston, were forced and destroyed, and whereas, in the present condition of the said town and harbour, the commerce of his majesty's subjects cannot safely carried on there, nor the customs payable to his majesty duly collected: and it is therefore expedient that the officers of his majesty's customs should be forthwith removed from the said town: may it please your majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the king's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons whatsoever to lade or put, or cause to be laden and put, off or from any quay, wharf, or other place, within the said town of Boston, or in or upon any part of the shore of the bay, commonly called the harbour of Boston, between a certain headland or point called Nahant point, on the Eastern side of the entrance into the said bay, and a certain other headland or point called Alderton point, on the Western side of the entrance into the said bay, or in or upon any island, creek, landing place, bank, or other place, within the said bay or headlands, into any ship, vessel, lighter, boat, or bottom, any goods, wares, or merchandise whatsoever, to be transported or carried into any other country, province, or place whatsoever, or into any other part of the said province of the Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, or to take in, discharge, or lay on land, or cause to be thrown, or put on land, within the said town, or in or upon any of the places aforesaid, out of any boat, lighter, ship, vessel, or vessels, any goods, wares, or merchandise whatsoever, to be brought from any other country, province, or place, or any other part of the said province, of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, upon pain of the forfeiture of the said goods, wares, and merchandise, and of the said boat, lighter, ship, vessel, or other vessels into which the same shall be put, or out of which the same shall be taken, and of goods, ammunition, stores, furniture, and tackle, in or belonging to the same; and if any such goods, wares, or merchandise, shall within the said town, or in any the places aforesaid, be laden or taken in from the shore into any boat, ship, lighter, vessel, or boat, from or out of any ship or vessel coming in and arriving from any other country or province, or other part of the province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, such boat, ship, lighter, vessel, or boat, shall be forfeited and lost.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any wharfinger or keeper of any wharf, office, or quay, or their servants, or any of them, shall take in or land, or knowingly suffer to be taken in or landed, or shall ship off, or suffer to be shipped, or to be from any of their said wharfs, offices, or quays, any such goods, wares, or merchandise, in every such case, all and every wharfinger, and keeper of such wharf, office, or quay, and every person whatsoever, who shall be aiding, or otherwise concerned in the shipping or in the landing or putting on board any boat, or other vessel, for that purpose, or in the unshipping such goods, wares, and merchandise, or to whose hands the same, shall knowingly come after the landing, shipping, or unshipping thereof, shall forfeit and pay treble the value thereof, to be computed at the highest price which then bore of goods, wares, and merchandise, shall bear at the place where such offence shall be committed, at the time when the same shall be so committed, together with the vessel and boats, and all the horses, carts, and carriages, whatsoever made use of in the shipping, unshipping, landing, removing, carriage, or conveyance of any of the aforesaid goods, wares, and merchandise.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any ship or vessel shall be moored or be at anchor, or be seen hovering within the said bay, described and bounded as aforesaid, or within one league from the said bay so described, or the said headlands, or any of the islands lying between or within the same, it shall and may be lawful for any admiral, chief commander, or commissioned officer of his majesty's fleet or ships of war, or for any officer of his majesty's customs, to compel such ship or vessel to depart to some other port or harbour, or to such station as the said officer shall appoint, and to use such force for compelling such ship or vessel to depart accordingly: and if such ship or vessel shall not depart accordingly, within six hours after notice for that purpose given by such person as aforesaid, such ship or vessel, together with all the goods, wares or merchandise, and all the guns, ammunition, stores and furniture, shall be forfeited and lost, whether such shall have been broken or not.

Provided always, That nothing in this act contained shall extend or be construed to extend, to any military or other force for his majesty's use, or to the ships or vessels whereon the same shall be taken, which shall be commissioned by, and in the immediate pay of his majesty, his heirs or successors, nor to any shed or vessel brought coastwise from any part of the continent of America, for the necessary use and subsistence of the inhabitants of the said town of Boston, provided the vessel wherein the same are to be carried shall be duly furnished with a cocket and sea-brief, after having been duly entered by the proper officers of his majesty's customs at Marblehead, in the port of Salem, in the said province of Massachusetts-Bay and that some officer of his majesty's customs be also there put on board the said vessel, who is hereby authorized to go on board, and proceed with the said vessel, together with a sufficient number of persons, properly armed, for his defence, to the said town of harbour of Boston; nor to any ships or vessels which may happen to be within the said harbour of Boston, on or before the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, and may have either taken or taken on board, or be there with intent to load or take on board, or to land or discharge any goods, wares, and merchandise, provided the said ships and vessels do depart the said harbour within fourteen days after the said first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all forfeitures, penalties, and forfeitures, inflicted by this act, shall be sued and prosecuted by any admiral, chief commander, or commissioned officer, of his majesty's fleet, or ships of war, or by the officers of his majesty's customs, or some of them, or by some other person imprisoned or authorized, by warrant from the lord high treasurer, or the commissioners of his majesty's treasury for the time being, and no other person whatsoever; and if any such officer, or other person authorized as aforesaid, shall, directly or indirectly, take or receive any bribe or reward, to connive at such lading or unlading, or shall make or commence any collusive seizure, information, or agreement for that purpose, or shall do any other act whatsoever, whereby the goods, wares, or merchandise, prohibited as aforesaid, shall be suffered to pass either inwards or outwards, or whereby the forfeitures and penalties inflicted by this act may be evaded, every such offender shall forfeit the sum of five hundred pounds for every such offence, and shall become incapable of any office or employment, civil or military, and every person who shall give, offer, or promise, any such bribe or reward, or shall contract, agree, or treat with any person, so authorized as aforesaid, to commit any such offence, shall forfeit the sum of fifty pounds.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the forfeitures and penalties inflicted by this act shall and may be prosecuted, sued for and recovered, and be divided, paid, and applied, in like manner as other penalties and forfeitures inflicted by any act or acts of parliament, relating to the trade or revenues of