

County in an Uproar, makes the People think their Liberties in Danger, and engages several Hundreds of the Freeholders, (as will certainly be the Case) to join in a Petition to the Assembly or Representatives. In a Word, such an Order of Court will be a lasting Monument of the same, and he an unanswerable Instance, now necessary a good Education, and Knowledge of Men, is to make a wise Man, at least a Man fit for Business.

But I have already exceed'd the Bounds I had prescrib'd myself in this Letter, and therefore reserve the Application of the Act of Assembly with whatever else I have to say upon the Subject, to another Occasion. In the mean Time, I am, &c.

A FREEHOLDER.

TWO LETTERS sent from his Excellency Governor SHIRLEY, to the Honourable Josiah Willard, Esq; Secretary of the Province.

Castle-William, Nov. 10. 1747.

S I R,

AFTER suffering the Insults of an outrageous Mob at Boston, on Tuesday Forenoon, by having my House kept, and one of the Under-Sheriffs, who was plac'd at my Door, dragg'd away from thence, beat, plunder'd, and put in the Stocks; and greater Outrages committed at Night in a rebellious Manner upon myself and His Majesty's Council, by being surrounded in the Council Chamber by an arm'd Mob, and assauil'd there with Brick bats, and by their forcibly entering the lower Floor of the Town-House, and afterwards of the same Mob's assembling at Night before my House in a tumultuous Manner, and threatening to burn a Barg, which they then thought belong'd to His Majesty, in my Court Yard, possessing themselves of the Gates of the Town, and threatening to seize all the Officers of His Majesty's Navy then in the Town, and detain 'em as Hostages, and subject them to the Violence of their lawless, arbitrary, Will, in Discipline, and to the Overtthrow of His Majesty's Government: And finding myself without a proper Force for Suppressing this Insurrection, and maintaining the King's Authority in the Town; the Soldiers of the Militia there having neglected and refused to obey my Orders given them by their Officers, to appear in Arms, for quelling the Tumult, and to keep a Military Watch at Night; and there being Reason to apprehend that the Insurrection was secretly countenanced, and encouraged by some ill minded Inhabitants, and Persons of Influence in the Town; and that the same rebellious Rout would be repeated the Night following; I did not think it consistent with the Honour of His Majesty's Government, to remain any longer in the Midst of it, destitute of all proper Means for suppressing it, preserving the Peace, and protecting his Majesty's Subjects committed to my Care: But have retir'd to His Majesty's Castle William, 'till I can assemble a sufficient Force of the Province Militia from the neighbouring Regiments in the Country, to quell the rebellious Tumult and restore his Majesty's Government, and the public Tranquillity in the Town of Boston; for which Purpose, I would have you forthwith issue out Orders to the Colonels of the several Regiments of the Towns of Cambridge, Roxbury, and Milton, and of the Regiment of Horse; to cause the Officers and Soldiers of their respective Regiments, to hold themselves in Readiness to march at an Hour's Warning, to such Place of Rendezvous as I shall further order, which, I hope, together with such Officers and Gentlemen of the Town of Boston, upon whose Duty and Attachment to the King's Government I can depend, will be a sufficient Strength to enable me to support the Magistrates of the Town of Boston (of whose Duty and Zeal for His Majesty's Service, I received an undoubted Mark, in their Message to me upon this Occasion, by Col. Hutchinson) the Sheriff, and inferior civil Officers, in discharging their respective Duties for the Maintenance of His Majesty's Government, and restoring the public Peace; and at the same Time, I would have you draw up Letters, to be sent with those Orders, to the several Colonels, purporting the Occasion of 'em, and my Dependence upon the Duty and Zeal of their respective Regiments for His Majesty's Service; and then transmit the Orders and Letters to me fairly wrote, to be sign'd, and immediately forwarded.

I would also have you take the first Opportunity to communicate this Letter to the Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council and House of Representatives, and let 'em know that I am greatly concerned at their being disturb'd in the public Business, by this rebellious Riot and Tumult; that I desire they would proceed in it, and that I will concur with them in any Measures for His Majesty's Service and the Interest of the Province; and doubt not, from their known Zeal for both, of being enabled, with their Assistance, to sit all Things right now, and prevent such Reuts in the Town of Boston,

and Breaches in His Majesty's Government, within the Province, for the future.—I shall be likewise glad of the Advice of the Gentlemen of the Council upon this Occasion, and of seeing them here for that Purpose, if they think His Majesty's Service requires it.

I enclos'd I send you Governor Knowles's Answer to the Letter which I sent him Yesterday, and read over to you first, and which I am sorry has not procur'd yet the Dismission of the Inhabitants of the Province, lately impress'd, and carried on board his Squadron, as also of many other Seamen belonging to outward bound Vessels; which I am satisfy'd he would have done instantly, had not the Outrages committed on his Officers, and the King's Government, prevented him; and I am sorry to hear that further Obstructions are laid in my Way, by the Mob's seizing and detaining Capt. Ensign, as also some petty Officers last Night in their Custody; but I have the Satisfaction to find, that my Answer to Mr. Knowles's Letter from hence, has prevented him from putting his Resolutions in Execution, which, had I remain'd at Boston, nothing would have hind'r'd.—I likewise receiv'd another Letter from him, between three and four o'Clock this Morning, with an Offer of two Hundred Marines to reinforce the Castle, and that he would come with them in Person: But I instantly excus'd myself from accepting his Offer (as what must have cast a Reflection upon the Loyalty and Duty of the whole Province to his Majesty) by letting it be known what I did not retire here for Safety of my Person, but to show a public Mark of my Resentment at the Behaviour of the Town of Boston upon this Occasion, and 'till I had collect'd a sufficient Force of the Country Militia to quell the Insurrection: And that I had not the least Approbation of the Castle's being in Danger from any Mob: However, I found this Morning he had brought three of his Ships nearer to the Castle, and I bear design to be nearer the next Tide: But as I shall dine on board of him to day, I will endeavour to divert him from such Thoughts, and to induce him to discharge the Inhabitants, and as many others as I can in the End; but cannot promise Success from the present Temper he is in at Capt. Ensign's being in the Mob's Possession, which earnestly wish could be forthwith remedy'd. I have only to add, that notwithstanding I think the Soldiers of the Militia of the Town of Boston have been very truly in their Duty on this Occasion, and shew'd very ill, I shall be concern'd at fixing a severe Brand upon the Town for their Failure in it; and therefore, without hesitating my before mentioned Orders (which yet I will not have suspended) if they will obey the Orders they have receiv'd, by appearing forthwith under Arms, and exert themselves vigorously in dispersing the Mob, and securing the Ringleaders, and restoring the Execution of the Civil Authority, so as that I may be sure of putting myself in a Condition of supporting His Majesty's Government in the Town, and obtaining Satisfaction for the Injustices shew'd to it, and the rebellious Breaches of the Peace, without my being in the Aid of the Country Regiments, I will yet give them an opportunity of retrieving their own Honour, and my good Opinion of them, and preventing an infamous Reproach upon the Duty and Loyalty of the Town.

It is fit that all Grievances should be inquir'd into, and redress'd, so far as it is in the Power of this Government to do: But I am sure the People have suffer'd no Grievance from this Government on this Occasion.

I am, Sir,
Your most assured Friend and Servant,
W. SHIRLEY.

Copy examin'd, per J. Willard, Secr.

Castle-William, Nov. 20. 1747.

S I R,

I Received your Packet by Capt. Wirflow, and have forthwith forwarded the several Warrants and Letters to the Colonels.—The enclos'd Votes of the Two Houses gave me Pleasure, and I hope they will go far towards wiping off any Imputation upon the Government on Account of this extraordinary Affair; which, in my Opinion, they can't take too much Care to do.

I would not dictate to the Gentlemen of the Committee; but should be glad that they would consider that the rebellious Breach committed on Tasker, was owing to the Neglect of Duty in the Militia of the Town of Boston, which if it had been attended to, would have prevent'd this infamous Insult upon the King's Peace, and his very Government, in all the three Branches of it, and that this Neglect of Duty in the Militia of that Town upon the Emergencies, they will not in my Opinion, effectually provide for the Security of the King's Government; and if a Proclamation be not issu'd, with the Advice of the Council, offering a proper Reward for the Discovery and apprehending of the chief delinquents