

sembly, and as Door-keeper to the Lower House of Assembly; and that you shall not disclose or reveal the Secrets thereof. So help you GOD:

The following Letters, viz.

“ S I R,

“ T H E House of Representatives of his Majesty's Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, at the Session of the General Assembly, in *May* last, being informed of the late Act of Parliament, relating to the Sugar Trade with the foreign Colonies, and the Resolutions of the House of Commons, relating to the Stamp Duties and other Taxes proposed to be laid on the *British* Colonies; were humbly of Opinion, that those Measures have a Tendency to deprive the Colonists of some of their most essential Rights, as *British* Subjects, and as Men, particularly the Right of assessing their own Taxes, and being free from any Impositions, but such as they consent to by themselves or Representatives.

“ Our Agent informs us, that in a Conference he had with Mr. *Greenville* on these Subjects, he was told, that the Ministry were desirous of consulting the Ease, the Quiet, and Good-Will of the Colonies.

“ Such Expressions induce us to hope, that there is nothing punitive in these Measures, and that humble dutiful Remonstrances may yet have their Effect.—But, if while these Things are thus publicly handled, no Claim is made, no Remonstrance is preferred on the Part of the Colonies, such Silence must be interpreted a tacit Cession of their Rights, and an humble Acquiescence under all their Burdens.

“ The House have wrote fully upon this Subject to the Agent of this Province, and directed him to remonstrate against these Measures, and to endeavour a Repeal of said Act; and, if possible, to prevent the Imposition of any further Duties and Taxes on the Colonies: For this Purpose, they were desirous of the united Assistance of the several Colonies, in a Petition against such formidable Attacks, on what they conceive to be the inseparable Rights of *British* Subjects; and that the Agents of the several Colonies, might be directed by the Representatives of the People on the Continent of *North America*, to unite, in the most serious Remonstrance, against Measures so destructive of the Liberty, the Commerce and Property of the Colonists, and in their Tendency, so pernicious to the real Interest of *Great-Britain*.

“ The House have done us the Honour, to appoint us a Committee in the Recess of the General Court, to inform the several Houses of Representatives of this Continent of their Desires; and we do ourselves the Honour, to subscribe ourselves,

“ Your most humble Servants,

JAMES OTIS,  
THOMAS CUSHING,  
OXENBRIDGE THACHER,  
THOMAS GRAY,  
EDWARD SHEAFFE.”

“ In the House of Representa-  
“ tives, *June* 13th, 1764.

“ The Committee appointed to consider the Letters from Mr. Agent *Mauduit*, Reported the Draft of a Letter to him, which was Read and Accepted, and

“ ORDERED, That a fair Draught thereof be transmitted to said Agent, together with the State of the Rights of the *British* Colonies; and that he be informed, that said State was drawn up by one of the House, and to be improved by him, as he shall judge proper.

“ ORDERED, That Mr. *Otis*, Mr. *Thacher*, Mr. *Cushing*, Capt. *Sheaffe*, and Mr. *Gray*, be a Committee in the Recess of the Court, to write to the other Governments, to acquaint them with the Instructions this Day Voted to be sent to the Agent of this Province; directing him to use his Endeavours to obtain a Repeal of the Sugar Act, and to exert himself to prevent a Stamp Act, or any other Impositions and Taxes, upon this and the other *American* Provinces: And that the said Committee, in the Name and Behalf of the House, desire the several Assemblies on this Continent, to join with them in the same Measures.

“ Att. R. COTTON, *Clk. Dec. Rep.*”

“ Province of the *Massachusetts Bay*, Boston, *June* 8th, 1765.

“ S I R,

“ T H E House of Representatives of this Province, in the present Session of the General Court, have unanimously agreed to propose a Meeting, as soon as may be, of Committees, from the Houses of Representatives or Burgesses of the several *British* Colonies on this Continent, to consult together on the present Circumstances of the Colonies, and the Difficulties to which they are, and must be reduced, by the Operation of the Acts of Parliament for levying Duties and Taxes on the Colonies; and to consider of a general, and united, dutiful, loyal and humble Representation of their Condition, to his Majesty and the Parliament, and to implore Relief. The House of Representatives of this Province, have also Voted to propose, that such Meeting be at the City of *New-York*, in the Province of *New-York*, on the first Tuesday of *October* next; and have appointed a Committee of Three of their Members, to attend that Service, with such as the other Houses of Representatives, or Burgesses,