

A REPORT
OF THE
RECORD COMMISSIONERS

OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON,

CONTAINING THE
BOSTON TOWN RECORDS, 1758 TO 1769.



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BOSTON.

A REPORT

OF THE

RECORD COMMISSIONERS.

The present, the Sixteenth Report of the Record Commissioners, contains the proceedings of the Town of Boston from A.D. 1758 through 1769. Of the special topics considered during that period in town meetings, we may note the following: Schools, Inns, Faneuil-Hall Market, the Fire of 1760, Inoculation, Long Wharf, and Beacon Hill. A project to establish Hancock's Hospital, and another to prepare a list of great benefactors of the town, were approved, but came to naught. The great feature of these meetings — one which will make this volume of lasting value — is the political action of the town during this exciting period, when its representatives were Otis, Cushing, Hancock, and Adams. The votes of the town were public matters, whose influence reached throughout the Colonies. Herein will be seen the beginnings of the Revolution, and the steps by which our ancestors arrived at political freedom.

For the Record Commissioners,

WILLIAM H. WHITMORE.

CITY HALL, BOSTON, Dec. 31, 1886.

BOSTON TOWN RECORDS.

[VOL. IV. OF THE ORIGINAL BOOKS.]

[408½.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualify'd and Warned in Public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil-Hall on Monday the 13th. day of March AD 1758.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. M^r. Sam^l. Checkley S^r.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting. Read.

Sundry Laws. Read.

John Phillips Esq^r. was chose Moderator of this Meeting and took the Oath respecting his paying & receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New-Hampshire and Rhode Island, as required by the Act of the Province.

Ezekiel Goldthwait was Chose Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, and having taken the Oath required by the Act of the Province, relating to his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office which were administred by John Phillips Esq^r.

Sundry Petitions. Read.

The Town proceeded to the Choice of seven Selectmen & the Votes brought in & Sorted, it appeared that,

Samuel Grant Esq^r.

M^r. Thomas Hill

Joshua Henshaw Esq^r.

Joseph Jackson Esq^r.

M^r. Thomas Cushing

M^r. Samuel Hewes

M^r. John Scollay

were unanimously chose, & Samuel Grant Esq^r. & M^r. Thomas Hill desired to be excused; the other Gentlemen [409.] Accepted and took the Oath required by Law, respecting their receiving and paying Bills of the other Governments.

The Town brought in their Votes for 12 Overseers of the Poor and being Sorted, it appear'd that,

The Hon^o. Andrew Oliver Esq^r.

John Phillips Esq^r.

M^r. Isaac Walker

Ebenezer Storer Esq^r.

M^r. John Barrett

M^r. John Tudor

M^r. Royall Tyler

Thomas Flucker Esq^r.
 Mr. William Phillips
 James Pitts Esq^r.
 M^r. Benjamin Dolbeare
 M^r. Isaac Smith,

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made & Seconded Voted that the Choice of Assessors Constables and Collectors of Taxes be referr'd till the Afternoon, to be taken into Consideration imediately after the Choice of a County Treasurer.

Mess^{rs}. John Phillips Esq^r.
 Joseph Jackson Esq^r.
 M^r. John Scollay
 M^r. Royall Tyler
 Cap^t. Hopestill Foster
 John Rowe Esq^r.
 Cap^t. Newman Greenough
 Cap^t. Thomas Savage
 Nath^l. Wheelwright Esq^r.
 M^r. Joseph Jackson
 Mr. William Cooper
 Thomas Flucker Esq^r.

were chose Firewards for the Year ensuing.

[409½.] The Town brought in their Votes for a Town Treasurer and upon viewing them, it appeared that M^r. Dav^d. Jeffries was unanimously chose to that Office, and having taken the Oath relating to his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, was also Sworn to the faithful discharge of his Duty in that Office.

Mess ^{rs} . Samuel Austin	}	Sworn
William Gray		
Cornelius Thayer		
Moses Peck		
Samuel Dexter		
Samuel Downe		
John Winslow		
Daniel Barker		
Daniel Boyer		
Thomas Leverett		
Daniel Eveleth		
Sam ^l . Hewes Jun ^r .		

were chose Clerks of the Marktett for the Year ensuing.

Mess ^{rs} . William Nichols	
Robert Ford	Sworn
Isaac White	
William Pain	Sworn
William Welsh	Sworn
Obadiah Lowe	Sworn
John Grant	Sworn
Moses Eayres	Sworn
Clement Collins	
Andrew Symmes	Sworn

- Isaac Vergoose Sworn
 Thomas Bailey Sworn
 were chose Surveyors of Boards for the Year ensuing.
 Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner
 Joseph Belknap
 were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing.
 [410.] Mr. John Gray
 was chose Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing.
 Mess^{rs}. Obadiah Low Sworn
 Nath^l. Wales
 Onesiphorus Tilestone
 Thomas Crafts
 Samuel Simpson Sworn
 Caleb Ray
 were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing.
 Mr. Joseph Curtis
 was chose Hayward for the Year ensuing. Sworn.
 Mess^{rs}. David Cutler
 Martin Gay
 were chose Assaymasters for the Year ensuing.
 Mess^{rs}. Joseph Clarke Sworn
 Thomas Hase Excus'd
 John Child Sworn
 James Downing Sworn
 Josiah Carter Sworn
 John Shepard Sworn
 Henry Rhodes
 were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing.
 Mess^{rs}. Nath^l. Bird
 Samuel Smith
 Thomas Foot
 Philip Cooke
 were choose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing.
 Mess^{rs}. Belcher Noyes
 Benj^a. Hammett
 Thomas Walley
 John Leverett
 James Richardson
 Isaac Savage
 Samuel Phillips
 John Forsyth
 Daniel Coney
 Christ^o. Prince
 Benj^a. Harrod
 Edward Holliday
 were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing.
 [410½.] Mr. Issac Dupee
 was choose Clerk of Faneuil Hall Market for the Year ens^d.
 Mess^{rs}. Samuel Treat
 Joseph Dyer
 David Spear
 Robert Treat

John Hobbs	Sworn
Jon ^s . Cary	
Edward Potter	
Benjamin Ballard	Sworn
Benjamin Barnard	
John Hoskins	

was chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing.

Thomas Greene Joseph Jackson Esq^r. & M^r. John Scollay were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, & they are desired and impower'd to give all needful directions to the Keeper of the Grainary respecting the Quantities of Grain to be Sold and Setting the Price thereof from time to time as occasion may require.

The Hon^o. Andrew Oliver Esq^r. who was this day chose one of the Overseers of the Poor, informed the Town that his Affairs and Buisness will be such the ensuing Year, that he cannot faithfully discharge his Duty in that Office, and therefore prays the Town will excuse him.

Voted that said And^r. Oliver Esq^r. be excus'd according^y.

Upon a Motion made & Seconded, it was unanimously Voted that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby is given to the Hon^o. Andrew Oliver Esq^r. for the many good Services he has done the Town as an Overseer of the Poor for about Seventeen Years past.

Samuel Grant Esq^r. & M^r. Thomas Hill who were this day chose Selectmen, informed the Town that they had Serv'd in that Office for several Years past, that their Buisness was now such that they could not serve [411.] any longer, and pray'd to be excused. Voted that said Gent^{rs}. be Excus'd accordingly.

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby is given to Samuel Grant Esq^r. & M^r. Thomas Hill for the long and faithful Services they have done the Town in Serving as Selectmen for many Years past.

Andrew Oliver jun^r. Esq^r.

M^r. Benjamin Austin,

were chose Selectmen in the Room of Samuel Grant Esq^r. & M^r. Thomas Hill who decline Serving, and they took the Oath required by Law relating to receiving and paying Bills of Credit of the other Governments.

Melatah Bourn Esq^r. was chose Overseer of the Poor in the room of the Hon^{ble}. Andrew Oliver Esq^r. who is Excus'd.

The Town brought in their Votes for a County Treasurer and they were Sealed up by Const^{le}. Patten, to be by him kept and returned to the next Court of Quarter Sessions to be held for this County.

Voted that there be twelve Constables chose for the Year ensuing, distinct from the Collectors of Taxes.

Voted that any Person chose to Serve as a Constable, be excused upon paying a Fine of Three Pounds.

Voted that the Town will choose Collectors of Taxes for the ensuing Year, and that there be but two choose.

Voted that six pence on the Pound be and hereby is allow'd to be pay'd to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall Collect, provided

they pay into the Town Treasury one half part of the whole Sums they are obliged to pay him within four Months from the time they receive the Tax Books from the Assessors, and the other half part in three Months after; and also pay [411½.] into the Province and County Treasuries one half part of the whole Sums they shall be obliged to pay them respectively in seven Months from the time they shall receive the Tax Books from the Assessors as aforesaid, and the other half in five Months after, and in Case either of said Collectors shall fail paying in manner aforesaid, the Collector so failing shall not be entitled to the aforesaid allowance of six pence on the Pound, but wholly forfeit the same. Provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen for the faithful discharge of their Duty in said Office and complying with this Vote.

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for two Collectors of Taxes and upon Sorting them it appeared that,

Thomas Greene Esq'. &
John Rowe Esq'.

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing.

Thomas Greene Esq'. declined Serving in the Office of a Collector of Taxes, & having a Commission for a Justice of the Peace, the Town apprehend he is not obliged to Serve, or pay the Fine.

Upon a Motion made and Seconded Voted that John Rowe Esq'. be Excus'd from Serving in the Office of a Collector of Taxes.

A Motion was made and Seconded that the Town would reconsider their Vote pass'd allowing six pence on the Pound only for Collecting of Taxes, & after a long debate thereon it was Voted that the further Consideration hereof be referr'd 'till tomorrow Morning.

Voted that this Meeting be & hereby is Adjourned 'till tomorrow Morning ten o'Clock.

[412.] Tuesday Morning ten o'Clock the Town Mett according to Adjournment.

The Motion made Yesterday that the Town would reconsider the Vote passed for allowing six pence only on the Pound for Collecting the Taxes, was taken into Consideration, and after a long debate thereon, Voted that the Town will allow no further Sum than six pence on the Pound for Collecting the Taxes.

Voted that Thomas Greene Esq'. M^r. Royall Tyler & M^r. William Cooper be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to examine the Accompts of the Managers of the Boston Lotteries N^o. three four & five, and they are desired to make Report thereon as soon as may be.

Mess^{rs}. John Patten
Augustus Hail
Nath^l. Thayer
Thomas Hubbard
David Bell
Thomas Bell
John Coverley
Eliphalet Parker
James Thomas

Thomas Gardner
John Cumston
Francis Salmon

were chose Constables for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Cap^t. John Goldthwait
William Fairfield
John Kneeland
Benj^a. Church
Peter Oliver
Samuel Edwards
Isaac White

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing.

[412½.] The Selectmen's Report on the Account of Mr. John Fenno Keeper of the Grainary for the Year past as Enter'd in his Book (and on File in the Town Clerk's Office) Read, and Voted that the same be accepted, and that Mr. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 2220 Bushells of Corn, and 130 Bushells of Rye remaining unsold, amounting to £259 ,, 6 ,, 8 and also for the Sum of £210 ,, 7 ,, 2½ Cash now in his hands, exclusive of the Sum of £26 ,, 13 ,, 4, exclusive of his Salary and Assistance as Charged in said Account, which is hereby allowed him.

The Committee appointed the 14th. of March last to Audit the Accounts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, now Reported that they had attended that Service, & found the same right Cast and well Vouch'd, in which he charges himself with sundry Fines Rents and other Incomes of the Town, as also with the Tax of £5000, all which amount (including the Balance of the old Account) to £6918 " 1-8 — and the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abatements made the Collectors, by Drafts made by the Selectmen am^o. to £2593 ,, 8 ,, 3¾, and Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor, which contain the Charges of the Alms-house and Work-house amounting to £1714 ,, 8 ,, 3½ which we have inspected in a very particular manner, by exam^s. every particular Voucher produced by the Overseers for the amount of that Sum, and every other Branch of Public Charge, all amounting to £6749 ,, 8 ,, 11. by which it appears that when all the Taxes Rents and Incomes of the Town are in, the Balance will be £168 ,, 12 ,, 9 which the said Treasurer is further to account for, as appears by the Tryall balance of said Account given in by s^d. Committee and on File. Which Report & Account being Read, Voted that the same be Accepted.

The Committee appointed the 14th. of March last to Audit the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, Report, that they had attended that Service, & on Examination of each Particular Bill for which said Overseers (413.) Drew on the Town Treasurer, are of the mind that considerable Saving has been made to the Town the Year past, by the Gentlemen Overseers paying for the Wood Grain and other Articles in ready Money, and find there is the Sum of £19 : 5 : 6 due to them for Interest on the Sums advanc'd to this day, and that so much of their respective Taxes should be allowed to each of them, as is their due out of their respective Rates by the Collectors of Taxes, agreeable to the Vote

of the Town. And said Committee further Report as their Opinion, that it will be for the Interest of the Town to desire the Gentlemen that may be chosen as Overseers of the Poor, for the present Year, be desir'd to buy all with Money, and that Interest should be allowed them for advancing the same, and that what shall be so Advanc'd shall be discounted out of their Taxes or others for the Year 1758.

Interest due to the Gentlemen the Overseers of the Poor, for Monies by them advanc'd in the Year past is as follows, viz^t.

To Andrew Oliver Esq ^r	£1	„	14	„	0.
Ebenezer Storer Esq ^r	4	„	2	„	8.
M ^r . Isaac Walker	„		18		
M ^r . John Barrett	1	„	18		
M ^r . John Tudor	1	„	10		
Thomas Flucker Esq ^r	2	„	11		
M ^r . Royall Tyler	1	„	4		
M ^r . William Phillips	„		10		
James Pitts Esq ^r	2	„	8	„	2
M ^r . Benj ^a . Dolbeare	„		15	„	8
M ^r . Isaac Smith	1	„	14		
	<hr/>				
	£19	„	5	„	6
	<hr/>				

which Report was Read and Accepted. And Voted that the Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing, be allow'd interest on all such Sums as they shall Advance or Borrow for the Support of the Poor.

The Town took into Consideration the Method of raising Monies for the payment of Schoolmasters, for the Relief of the Poor, and the defreying other necessary Charges, and after a very long debate thereon. Voted that the Sum of [413½.] Money that shall be agreed upon to be raised at this Meeting for the purposes aforesaid, shall, as soon as may be, be apportion'd by the Assessors, and the Collectors of Taxes shall upon receiving said Assessments from them, forthwith Collect and pay the same in to the Town Treasury, & that no more than six pence on the Pound be allow'd for Collecting of Taxes.

Voted that the Sum of Six Thousand Pounds Lawful money be rais'd by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for Relief of the Poor, and defreying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the Year ensuing.

Voted that Thomas Greene James Boutineau and John Rowe Esq^r. M^r. Nicholas Boylstone and M^r. William Cooper, be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Accompts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accompts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are desir'd & empower'd to Inspect every particular Accompt of the Monies expended for the use of the Alms-house, they are also empower'd when they shall audit said Accompts to allow to said Overseers or such of them as shall advance Monies for the Support of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the time advanc'd 'till they shall Audit said Accompts.

Voted that the Town proceed to the Choice of four Collectors of Taxes, the Vote passed this Meeting for choosing only two, notwithstanding, accordingly the Votes were brought in, and upon Sorting them it appeared that,

Mess^{rs}. John Ruddock
James Scutt
Jonathan Payson &
Samuel Adams,

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing.

In margin. [Tythingmen.] Nothing done thereon.

[414.] The Petition of sundry Inhabitants praying that the Town would pave the lower end of Prince Street leading to Charlestown Ferry, for reasons therein mentioned, was Read, and after a short debate, Voted that said Petition be dismiss'd.

The Petition of the Watchmen of the Town praying for an Addition to their Wages, for reasons therein mentioned was Read, Voted that said Petition be dismiss'd.

The Petition of Edward Holliday of Boston Shopkeeper, setting forth, that Thomas Downe jun^r. was chose by the Town one of their Collectors of the Public taxes for the Years 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754 & 1755, that your Petitioner become one of his Bondsmen for the last mentioned Year, whereby he obliged himself that the Taxes committed to said Downe to Collect, should be pay'd in to the several Treasurers according to the Warrants he received for that purpose, that said Downe fail'd in his Circumstances, before he had compleated Collecting and paying in said Taxes, and the other Bondsmen also failing, the Selectmen of the Town immediately applied to your Petitioner and informed him that he must make up the deficiency of said Sum said Downe was to pay, and for further Security, they Attached your Petitioners House and Land, and as the outstanding Tax could not be gather'd in, unless some other Person was appointed, your Petitioner was Advis'd to make Application to the General Court that he might be Impower'd in the room of said Downe to Collect the same, which he did, & the General Court thereupon authoriz'd your Petitioner not only to gather in the Taxes of the Year 1755, but such as shou'd appear to be unpaid the other abovementioned Years, that your Pet. on Examining said Downe's Tax Books found there were considerable Sums unpaid in those Years, and he has for several Months past been endeavouring to get in the same, and has accordingly received considerable, but there were many Persons in some of the above Years taxed, so extremely Poor, that said Downe could not get one farthing of them, nor are they yet able to pay any part, many others have been dead for some time and left nothing, the Petitioner [414½.] having tryed all possible Methods but to no effect, that said Downe before he fail'd intended to have applied to the Town for an Abatement of Taxes of such Poor, but did not.

The Petitioner therefore prays the Town would now Appoint a Committee to make enquiry into the Circumstances of such Persons who have not pay'd their Taxes in the afore-mentioned Years, and he doubts not but they will be Convinc'd they never

were able to pay them, and that upon their Report the Town will judge it, to be equitable said Taxes should be Abated, and as the Petitioner will be almost ruin'd by being unhappily bound for said Downe, he prays he may be heard by said Committee relating to such Abatements as he apprehends in Justice ought to be made. was Read and thereupon Voted that the Assessors be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to take the same into Consideration, hear the Petitioner and Report to the Town as soon as may be, what Taxes they shall judge ought in Equity to be Abated in the several Years therein mentioned.

The Town proceeded to consider what is necessary further to be done relating to the By-Laws and Orders of the Town & thereupon Voted that Thomas Greene Esq^r. M^r. Oxenbridge Thacher and M^r. William Story be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Collect all the By-Laws & Orders of the Town now in force, and range them in such manner as they shall think proper, in order to their being Printed & Report their doings hereon as soon as may be.

Voted that the Assessors be and they hereby are Impower'd to sit on every Thursday from this day until the last Thursday of April next inclusive, and no longer for making an Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as they shall judge reasonable, saving that they have liberty to sit the two last Weeks in November next to Abate (if they see cause) the Taxes of all such Persons as shall appear to them to have been out of the Province, and so could not have made Application to them for an Abatement by said last Thursday in April.

[415.] Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned to the last Friday in April next being the 28th. of the Month, at ten o'Clock in the forenoon, and the same is Adjourn'd to that time accordingly.

Friday April 28th. 1758 The Town mett according to Adjournm^t.

The Committee appointed to Audit the Accompts of the Managers of Boston Lotteries N^{os}. 3 : 4 : 5. Reported that they had Attended that Service, and find the same right, & that the following Sums be allow'd them, viz^t.

To Samuel Grant Esq ^r	£43,, 16,, 8
M ^r . Thomas Hill	42,, 13,,
Joshua Henshaw Esq ^r	42,, 13,,
Joseph Jackson Esq ^r	42,, 13,,
M ^r . Thomas Cushing	43,, 2,,
M ^r . Samuel Hewes	43,, 8,,
M ^r . John Scollay	39,, 16,,

Voted that all Matters and Things mentioned in the Warrant that remain unfinished be and they hereby are referr'd over to May Meeting, to be then Acted upon.

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby is given to John Phillips Esq^r. Moderator of this Meeting for Transacting the Buisness thereof.

Then the Meeting was Dismiss'd.

[415 $\frac{1}{2}$.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and Warned in

Public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the sixteenth day of May AD 1758.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Mr. Eben^r. Pemberton.

The Precept & Warrant for calling the Meeting Read.

Sundry Laws Read.

Joshua Henshaw Esq^r. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Names to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the Choice of one or more Persons to represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at Boston upon Wednesday the thirty first day of May current, and in order thereto to Consider and Ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be elected, accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the Choice of four Representatives, and then it was declar'd by the Selectmen, that no Votes would be received after twelve o'Clock, but the Poll then clos'd.

The Votes being Collected the Number of Voters were found to be 369, & upon Sorting them it appeared that the following Gentlemen were chose viz^t.

The Hon ^o . Thomas Hubbard Esq ^r	300
Mr. John Tyng	234
Thomas Flucker Esq ^r	291
Benjamin Prat Esq ^r	309

which was declar'd by the Selectmen.

The Inhabitants proceeded to bring in their Votes for a Moderator, and upon Sorting them it appeared that the Hon^o. Thomas Hubbard Esq^r. was chose, & he having taken the Oath respecting his receiving & paying Bills of Credit of the Govern^{ts} of Connecticut New Hampshire & Rhode Island as required by the Act of this Province, took his Seat.

[416.] The Petitions Read.

The Town took into Consideration the Article in the Warr^t. viz^t, "what is necessary to be done for the preservation of Beacon Hill." and thereupon Voted that Thomas Hancock Esq^r. Mr. William Cooper and Mr. John Avery be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to repair to said Hill, view the same & Report to the Town the circumstances thereof, and what they judge necessary to be done for the better Security of said Hill.

The Petition of the Watchmen of the Town praying that an Addition may be made to their Wages, was Read, and after a short Debate Voted that the Sum of four shillings p Month be allowed in Addition to their present pay.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. "whether the Town will Impower the Selectmen to Sell a small Peice of Land near Fort-hill adjoining to Mr. Alexander Hunt's Land." was taken into Consideration and thereupon Voted that Jos^s. Henshaw Esq^r. Joseph Jackson Esq^r. Mr. Thomas Cushing Mr. John Scollay, Mr. Samuel Hewes, Mr. Benjamin Austin and Andrew Oliver jun^r. Esq^r. the present Selectmen be & they hereby are fully authoriz'd and Impower'd to Sell said Land to such Person as will give most for the same, and in the Name and behalf of the Town to give and execute a good and legal Deed thereof to the Purchaser.

The Selectmen appointed a Committee the 10th. of May last to Visit the Schools, now made the following Report Viz^t.

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 16th. 1758.

Pursuant to the Vote of the Town of Boston at their Meeting the tenth of May last desiring the Selectmen to Visit the Schools and Invite such Gentlemen to accompany them as they should think proper do now Report,

That on the 24th. day of June last they attended that Service accompanied by the following Gentlemen viz^t.

The Hon ^o . John Oshorn	Jacob Wendell	Stephen Sewall	} Esq ^{rs} .
Rich ^d . Bill	And ^r . Oliver	John Erving	
		Robert Hooper	

[416 $\frac{1}{2}$.] The Gent^{rs}. Representatives of the Town,
 The Gent^{rs}. the Overseers of the Poor,
 The Rev^d. the Ministers of the Town
 M^r. Treasurer Gray

Joshua Winslow	} Esq ^{rs} .
Richard Dana	
James Boutineau	
Stephen Greenleaf	
Doct ^r . William Clarke & M ^r . John Ruddock	

and found in the South Grammar School there was 115 Scholars, in the South Writing School 240 Scholars, in the Writing School in Queen Street 230 Scholars, in the North Grammar School 36 Scholars, in the North Writing School 220 Scholars, all in very good Order.

Read and Accepted, and Voted that the Gentlemen the Selectmen, be and they hereby are desired to Visit the Schools this present Year, and invite such Gentlemen to accompany them as they shall think proper.

Voted that Thomas Greene and Royall Tyler Esq^{rs}. and M^r. William Cooper be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Accompts of the Managers of Boston Lottery N^o. 6. & they are desired to Report thereon, as soon as may be.

Voted that the Selectmen be desired to make a particular Enquiry into the State of the several Public Schools in Town, and whether there is any Neglect of Duty in the Masters or Ushers of said Schools, & Report the same to the Town

The Committee appointed the 13th. of March last on a Petition of Edward Holliday made Report, which was Read, and Voted that the Consideration of said Petition and Report, be refer^d to a future day, to be then Acted upon as the Town shall judge proper.

[417.] Voted that M^r. Peleg Wiswall be allow'd for his Salary as Master of the North Grammar School at the Rate of Eighty Pounds per Annum untill the Town shall otherwise Order.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be allowed and pay'd unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School, the ensuing Year, to be pay'd him Quarterly and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and pay'd unto M^r. Abia Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the

South Writing School, the ensuing Year to be pay'd him Quarterly and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and pay'd unto M^r. Zachariah Hicks for his Salary as Master of the North Writing School, the ensuing Year, to be pay'd him Quarterly, & to Commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allow'd and pay'd to M^r. Samuel Holyoke one of the Masters of the Writing School in Queen Street the ensuing Year to be pay'd him Quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allow'd and pay'd unto M^r. John Procter one of the Masters of the Writing School in Queen Street, the ensuing Year, to be pay'd him Quarterly & to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allow'd and pay'd unto M^r. Nath^l. Gardner for his Salary as Usher to the South Grammar School the ensuing Year, to be pay'd him Quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

[417½.] Voted that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allow'd and pay'd unto M^r. John Vinal for his Salary as Usher of the South writing School the Year ensuing to be pay'd him Quarterly, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allow'd and pay'd unto M^r. John Tilestone for his Salary as Usher of the North Writing School the ensuing Year to be pay'd him Quarterly and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and pay'd unto M^r. David Jeffries for his Services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office.

Voted that the Sum of Twenty Pounds be allow'd and pay'd unto Cap^t. Isaac Dupee for his Services as Clerk of Faneuil Hall-Market the Year past.

The Committee appointed the 13th. of March last to Collect all the By-Laws and Orders of the Town now in force, and Range them in such manner as they shall think proper in Order to their being Printed, Report, that they apprehend it will be proper for the By-Laws lately Voted by the Town and pass'd the Sessions, to be Printed as soon as may be, that with them be Printed a By-Law made March 14th. 1725 which contains the last Provision relating to the Dirt in the Streets, before the new By Laws. That the Title of the whole be this; The By Laws and Orders of the Town of Boston, — Revis'd 1758. The said By-Law March 14th. 1725 to be first Printed, and then the others to follow in their Order as Voted by the Town & Confirmed by the Sessions.— which Report being Read and Considered of Voted that the same be & hereby is accepted. And the Selectmen are desired to cause such a Number of s^d. By-Laws & Orders to be Printed as they shall judge necessary upon the best Terms they can.

[418.] The Petition of Hugh M^cDaniel of Boston praying the Town will abate him part of the Rent of a House and Land on the Neck he hired of the Town the 25th. of March 1752 for Reasons therein mention'd was Read & thereupon Voted that

Richard Dana Esq^r. M^r. William Story, and Royall Tyler Esq^r. be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to consider of said Petition view the Premisses, hear the Petitioner, and Report to the Town what they shall judge reasonable to be done thereupon.

Voted that the Selectmen be and they hereby are desired to issue a Warrant for a Town Meeting to be on the same day of the propos'd Adjournment of this Meeting, in Order to know whether the Town will then desire said Selectmen to appoint a Master for the North Grammar School, or an Usher or Assistant to the present Master there. Also whether the Town will make any further Allowance to the Collectors of Taxes for Collecting them, than six pence on the Pound Voted in March last.

Voted that this Meeting be and hereby is Adjourned to Monday the 12th. day of June next at 10 o'Clock in the forenoon.

Monday the 12th of June 1758. The Town mett according to their Adjournment.

The Committee appointed the 16th. of May last, on the Petition of Hugh M^c.Daniel, Report, that they had viewed the demised House and Land mentioned in said Petition heard the Petitioner thereupon, and find that said Peice of Land falls short in Measure about one quarter part of what it is suppos'd in the Lease to contain, & after due Consideration of all Circumstances respecting this Affair they are of Opinion that it is reasonable that the Sum of Sixteen Pounds of Lawful money be Abated to the Petitioner out of the Rent of the Premisses for the time past, and that he for the future pay no more than Thirteen Pounds six shillings and eight pence Lawful money by the Year for the Rent of the Premisses during the Residue of his Term therein according to his [418½.] Lease, which Report being Read, Voted that the same be Accepted, and that the Treasurer be and hereby is directed to allow to said Hugh M^c.Daniel the Sum of Sixteen Pounds out of the Rent of said Premisses for the time past, and that for the future said M^c.Daniel pay the Sum of Thirteen Pounds six shillings and eight pence only for the Annual Rent of said Premisses during the remainder of the Term mention'd in his Lease.

The Committee appointed the 16th of May last to Audit the Accompts of the Managers of Boston Lottery N^o. 6. Report, that they had attended that Service, and found said Accompts right and that the same be allow'd, Voted that said Report be accepted, and that the follow^g. Sums be allowed and pay'd to said Managers in full of their Accompts Viz^t.

To Samuel Grant Esq ^r	£ 14 ,, 17 ,, 0 . . .
M ^r . Thomas Hill	15 ,, ,, ,, . . .
Joshua Henshaw Esq ^r	14 ,, 2 ,, . . .
Joseph Jackson Esq ^r	14 ,, 5 ,, . . .
M ^r . Thomas Cushing	14 ,, 9 ,, . . .
M ^r . Samuel Hewes.	14 ,, 2 ,, . . .
M ^r . John Scollay	13 ,, 1 ,, . . .

The Committee appointed the 13th of March last on the Petition of Edward Holliday Reported the 16th of May last, that they had considered of the Subject Matter of said Petition, and what Taxes ought in Equity to be Abated, & that the several Taxes mentioned

in a List annexed to Said Report ought to be Abated, which Report and List upon a Motion now made was Read over, and a Debate was had thereupon, and after some time, it was moved and Voted that said Report be Recommended, and that said Committee in Considering what Abatements be made to the Petitioner be and they hereby are directed to go no further back in making Abatements then since the Year 1754, the said Tho^s. Downe ment^d. in s^d. Petⁿ. having rec^d. his Premium for Collecting Taxes for that Year, & said Com^{ee}. are desir'd to make Report hereon as soon as they have done the same.

[419.] The Committee appointed the 16th. of May last to consider what is necessary to be done for the preservation of Beacon Hill, Report that they had viewed said Hill, and that it appears to them absolutely necessary that speedy Measures should be taken by the Town to prevent the digging away any further part of it, in Order for the Preservation of the whole, and as M^r. Hudson who purchas'd a part of said Hill, and is now digging the same has mentioned a readiness to dispose of his Right therein, on such Terms as may by Persons chose be judged reasonable, said Committee further Report as their Opinion that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be directed and empower'd to purchase for the Town said Hudsons Interest in said Hill, and in Case of any disagreement concerning it, that they then apply to the General Court for y^r. Interposition, which Report being Read, It was Voted that the same be Accepted, and that the Selectmen be and they hereby Authoriz'd and Impower'd to Purchase of said Hudson his Right & Interest in said Hill on such Terms as they shall agree a^d in Case they shall not be able to Effect the same with said Hudson, said Selectmen are hereby directed to apply to the General Court for their Interposition and Assistance in Order to Compel said Hudson to Sell his Right and Interest in said Hill for a reasonable Consideration.

The Selectmen being desir'd by a Vote pass'd the 16th. of May last, to make a particular Enquiry into the State of the several Public Schools in Town, and whether there is any Neglect of duty in the Masters or Ushers of said Schools, Report that they had attended that Service, and don't find that there has been any neglect of Duty in any of the Masters or Ushers of said Schools, except in the North Writing School where M^r. Zachariah Hicks is Master, upon which they had sent for M^r. Hicks, and Convers'd with him concerning the Government of said School, and inform'd him of some Complaints that were made against his Conduct there, & in not giving proper Attendance at said School, M^r. Hicks thereupon acknowledged that he had not so constantly attended at said School for some time past, as heretofore, but that the same was wholly owing to Indisposition, [419½.] but as he was now much better in his health, he should give his constant Attendance, and in every respect faithfully discharge his Duty as Master of said School: the Selectmen further Report that upon Enquiry they are of Opinion, that the neglect of Duty complained of was not for want of Fidelity in M^r. Hicks, but that it was occasion'd wholly by his Indisposition, and that as he has been a faithful

Master in said School for many Years past, they doubt not now he is recovered his Health he will continue so ; Whereupon it was Unanimously Voted that said Report be and hereby is Accepted.

Then the Meeting was Dismiss'd.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil-Hall on Monday the twelfth day of June AD 1758.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting, Read.

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq^r. was chose Moderator of this Meeting.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. whether the Town will desire the Selectmen to appoint an Assistant to the Master of the North Grammar School, or consider what may be further necessary to be done for the Instruction of the Youth there : was Consider'd of, and after some Debate thereon. It was Voted that the Selectmen be and they hereby are desired to appoint an Assistant to the Master of s^d. School, and that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be allowed for the Yearly Salary of said Master and Assistant, and that such a part thereof be paid to the Assistant as the Selectmen shall agree with him for.

[420.] The Article in the Warrant viz^t. Whether the Town will make any further Allowance to the Collectors of Taxes than the six pence on the Pound Voted in March last. It was Voted that the Sum of three pence on the Pound be allow'd to the Collectors in Addition to six pence on the pound Voted in March last, provided they pay into the Town Treasury one half the Sum they shall be obliged severally to collect by the first of November next, and the remainder by the first of March following.

James Scutt who was chose one of the Collectors of Taxes in March last declined serving, whereupon John Grant was chose in his Room.

The Article in the Warrant, Viz^t, To enquire whether the Conditions of the Lease of Deer Island made to Henry Atkins Esq^r. and others have been comply'd with, and for the Town to Act thereupon as may be thought proper. Was taken into Consideration, and several of the Proprietors of Point Shirley to whom said Lease was made being present, declar'd that they had not so far complied with the Conditions of the Lease by which they hold said Island as to send out and employ this last Year such a number of Vessells or Schooners in the Fishery as they were obliged by said Lease to do, being prevented only by the present War with the French, they having had three or four Vessells taken when a fishing, by the French, but as soon as there was a Peace or Louisbourg sho'd be reduced to the Obedience of the Crown of Great Britain, they intended to carry on the Fishery again at said Point Shirley, and employ such a Number of Schooners or Vessells as will make up the Tonage mentioned in said Lease, and hope the Town (if they now take said Island into their Possession) will then renew said Lease to them for the Term yet remaining unexpired, & that they so far as they are concerned in said Lease are willing

to quit said Island for the present to the Town, without putting them to any further difficulties about it. Whereupon It was Voted that the Selectmen as soon as they conveniently can, take possession of said Island, and [420½.] Hire out on the best Terms they can by Lease or otherwise as they shall judge most for the Interest of the Town.

The Town considered of the Article in the Warrant Viz^t. Whether the Selectmen shall be Impower'd to Lease out the Shops on the North side of Faneuil-Hall Markett for a longer Term than Seven Years, and after some Debate thereon, It was Voted that the Town will not Impower the Selectmen to Lease out said Shops for any longer term than Seven Years.

Then the Meeting was Dismiss'd.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the twelfth day of March A D 1759.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Sam^l. Mather.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting Read.

Sundry Laws Read.

John Phillips Esq^r. was chose Moderator of the Meeting and took the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governm^{ts}. of Connecticut New-Hampshire & Rhode Island as required by the Act of the Province.

Ezekiel Goldthwait was unanimously chose Town Clerk for the Year ensuing & having taken the Oath required by the Act of this Province relating to his paying and receiving Bills of [421.] Credit of the other Governments took the Oath of Office which was Administrated to him by John Phillips Esq^r.

Sundry Petitions Read.

The Town proceeded to the Choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in, and Sorted it appeared that,

Joshua Henshaw Esq^r.

Joseph Jackson Esq^r.

M^r. Thomas Cushing

M^r. Samuel Hewes

M^r. John Scollay

M^r. Benjamin Austin

Andrew Oliver jun^r. Esq^r.

were chose and they thereupon took the Oath required by Law relating to their receiving and paying Bills of Credit of the neighbouring Governments.

The Town brought in their Votes for 12 Overseers of the Poor, and being Sorted, it appeared that,

John Phillips Esq^r.

M^r. Isaac Walker

Ebenezer Storer Esq^r.

M^r. John Barrett

M^r. John Tudor

Royall Tyler Esq^r.

Thomas Flucker Esq^r.

Mr. William Phillips
 James Pitts Esq^r.
 Mr. Isaac Smith
 Mr. Benj^a. Dolbeare
 Melatiah Bourne Esq^r.

were chose for the Year ensuing.

The Votes were brought in for a Town Treasurer upon and viewing them it appeared that Mr. David Jeffries was chose, and having taken the Oath [421½.] Relating to his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments was also Sworn to the faithful discharge of his duty in that Office.

Voted that any Person chose into the Office of a Constable for the ensuing Year be excus'd on his paying a Fine of Four Pounds.

Voted that twelve Constables be chose separate from the Collectors of Taxes.

Voted that the Town proceed to the choice of twelve Constables, and the Votes being brought in and Sorted it appeared that,

Mess ^{rs} .	John Patten	} Sworn
	Francis Salmon	
	Tho ^s . Barton Simpkins	
	Eliphalet Parker	
	Obadiah Low	
	Edw ^d . Weld	
	Augustus Hale	
	James Thomas	
	Will ^m . Wait Wallace	
	John Coverley	
	Nath ^l . Thayer & John Rogers	

were chose for the Year ensuing.

The Votes were brought in for twelve Firewards, & upon Sorting them it appeared that

John Phillips Esq^r.
 Joseph Jackson Esq^r.
 Mr. John Scollay
 Royall Tyler Esq^r.
 Cap^t. Hopestill Foster
 John Rowe Esq^r.
 Cap^t. Newman Greenough
 Tho^s. Flucker Esq^r.
 Cap^t. Solomon Davis
 M^r. Will^m. Cooper
 M^r. Joseph Jackson
 M^r. Sam^l. Austin

were chose for the Year ensuing.

[422.] Mess ^{rs} .	Cornelius Thayer	Sworn
	Neal McIntire	Sworn
	Thomas Leverett	
	Daniel Parker	Sworn
	Benjamin Henderson	

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------|
| | Thomas Downe | Sworn |
| | Nathaniel Hurd | Sworn |
| | Daniel Henschman | Sworn |
| | James Jackson | Sworn |
| | Oliver Wiswall | Sworn |
| | Samuel Barratt &
Jonathan Amory | Sworn |
- were chose Clerks of the Markett for the Year ensuing.
- Mess^{rs}. Isaac White
William Pain
William Nichols
William Welch Sworn
Robert Ford Sworn
Caleb Ray
Clement Collins Sworn
Isaac Vergoose Sworn
James Ridgway
Andrew Symmes
Thomas Bayley & Sworn
Moses Eayres Sworn
- were chose Surveyors of Boards &c^a. for the Year ensuing.
- Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Brown
John Lee
Ebenezer Lowell
William Blair Townsend
Afstar Stoddard
Benjamin Harrod
John Forsyth
David Wheeler
Joseph Candish
William Gray
John Colburn &
William Torrey
- were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing.
- Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner &
Joseph Belknap
- were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing.
- [422½.] Mess^{rs}. Caleb Ray
Nath^l. Wales Sworn
Cap^t. Joseph Russell
William Moore Sworn
Benjamin Russell &
Benjamin Eustice jun^r. Sworn
- were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing.
- M^r. John Gray was chose Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing.
- M^r. John Ranstead was chose Hayward for the Year ensuing.
Sworn.
- Mess^{rs}. David Cutler &
Martin Gray were chose
Assay-masters for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Cornelius Thayer

John Allen
Adino Paddock &
James Dawson

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Thomas Bradford Sworn
David Flagg Sworn
Joshua Cornish & Sworn
John M^cLane

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing.

In margin. Tything-men. Nothing done thereon.

Mess^{rs}. David Spear
John Haskins
Jon^a. Jenkins
Paul Baxter
Nathan Spear
Benj^a. Barnard
Benj^a. Ballard Sworn
John Hobbs
Jon^a. Barnard Sworn
John Helyer

were chose Cullers of Staves &c^a. the Year ensuing,
[423.] The Selectmen.

In margin { Surveyors of }
 { Highways }

The Selectmen's Report on the Acco^t. of M^r. John Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past as Enter'd in his Book (and on File in the Town Clerk's Office) Read and Voted that the same be Accepted, and that M^r. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 230 Bushells of Corn, and 90 bushells of Rye, remaining unsold amounting to £48. 2. 8. and also for the Sum of £425. 17. 9³/₄. Cash now in his hands exclusive of the Sum of £26. 13. 4, for his Salary & Assistance as charged in said Account, which is hereby allowed him.

Thomas Greene & Joseph Jackson Esq^{rs}. and M^r. John Scollay are chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, and they are desired and impowered to give all needful directions to the Keeper of the Granary, respecting the Quantities of Grain to be sold, and setting the price thereof from time to time as occasion shall require.

The Town brought in their Votes for a County Treasurer, and they were Sealed up by Constable Rogers, to be by him kept and returned to the next Court of General Sessions of the Peace to be held for this County.

The Town brought in their Votes for a Clerk of Fanueil-Hall Markett, and upon sorting them it appeared that M^r. Abijah Adams was chose. Sworn.

The Memorial of Sundry Freeholders & Inhabitants praying that the Wooden Shops on the North side of Fanueil Hall Market may be demolished or removed, and the Dock fill'd up for the Reasons therein mentioned, was read and after some Debate thereon, Voted that said Memorial be Dismiss'd.

[423.] The Petition of Solomon Kneeland of Boston Leather dresser setting forth, that several Years ago his Brother was a Constable in Boston and had some Taxes committed to him to Collect, but as there was some part thereof he failed in paying to the Town Treasury, the Town brought an Action against the Petitioner's Father, who was bound for his Brother, and Recovered Judgment against him for the deficiency, took out Execution thereupon & extended the same on a strip of land fronting Orange Street at the Southerly part of the Town, measuring sixteen feet in the front, which adjoins to other Lands the Petitioner now enjoys as part of his Father's Estate, that the Petitioner now rents this small Peice of Land of the Town, but as the same is but of very little Service to the Town, and as it was part of his Father's Estate, he would purchase said Peice upon such Terms as may be agreed upon, & therefore pray'd the Town would consider of the Premises and Sell him the same for such a Sum of Money as may be judged reasonable, was Read, and thereupon It was Voted that the Selectmen be and they hereby are fully Authorized and Impowered to Sell (if they see fit) said Peice of Land to said Solomon Kneeland, for such a Consideration as they shall judge reasonable, and they are desired to give and execute to him a legal Deed for the same.

The Article in the Warrant for widening Ann Street and repairing the Pavement there, was taken into Consideration and thereupon Voted that Royal Tyler & Thomas Greene Esq^s. and Mr. Jonathan Cushing be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Consider whether it will be more convenient to the Town to have said Street widened, the manner of doing it, [424.] and what is necessary for the Town to do in order to effect the same, and for repairing the Pavement there.

The Article in the Warrant that some Method may be taken to reduce the great Number of Licenced Houses was taken into Consideration, and thereupon Voted that the Selectmen be and they hereby are desired to use their utmost Endeavours to reduce the Number of Licenced Houses in Town and take any Method they shall think necessary and proper to effect the same.

Also Voted that the Selectmen be and they hereby are desired to give Notice to all such Persons as are Licenced, either as Inholders or Retailers that if they Sell Rum or any Liquors to Negroes or Mollatto Servants, after the Second of April next without a written Order from their respective Master or Mistresses, they will not be allowed to renew their Licences any more.

Voted that the Sum of Twenty Pounds be Allow'd and paid to Cap^t. Isaac Dupée for his Salary as Clerk of Faneuil-Hall Market the Year past.

The Petition of Robert Peirpoint praying that a further Allowance may be made him for carting Stones used in Paveing the Neck, was read, and thereupon Voted that the Selectmen make such a further Allowance to said Peirpoint for carting said Stones, as they shall judge reasonable.

The Committee appointed the 12th. March last, on the Petition of Edward Holiday for the Abatement of sundry Taxes made Re-

port that the Taxes of sundry Persons particularly named in said Report amounting to £24. 4. 10. ought in their Opinion to be Abated, and after some Debate thereon,

Voted that said Sum of £24. 4. 10. be & hereby is Abated said Holiday, & that an Allowance of said sum be made him.

[424½.] Also Voted that said Holiday be desired to use his Endeavours to get in what he can of said Taxes, and if he shall receive any part thereof, that he be accountable to the Town for the same.

On a Motion made and Seconded, a Question was put, Whether the Town will allow nine pence on the pound to the several Gentleman, that lent Monies to the Town in June last to be deducted out of their Taxes, besides the nine pence on the pound allowed the Collectors on the whole Sum Collected by them. Voted in the Affirmative.

Mess^{rs}. William Fairfield
John Kneeland
Peter Oliver
Samuel Edwards
Benjamin Church
Isaac White and
Joseph Bradford

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing.

Voted that the Sum of nine pence on the Pound be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes the Year ensuing for all such Sums as they shall Collect, provided they pay into the Town Treasury, one half of the whole Sum they are Obligated to pay him, within four Months from the time they receive the Tax Books from the Assessors, and the other half part in three Months after, and also pay into the Province and County Treasuries one half part of the whole Sums they shall be obliged to pay them respectively in seven Months from the time they shall receive the Tax Books from the Assessors as aforesaid, and the other half in five Months after: And in case either of said Collectors shall fail paying in manner afore^d. the Collector so failing shall not be Entitled to the [425.] aforesaid Allowance of nine pence on the pound but wholly forfeit the same, provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen, for the faithful discharge of their Duty in said Office, and complying with this Vote.

Voted that the Town proceed to the choice of four Collectors of Taxes, and the Votes being brought in & sorted, it appeared that,

Mess^{rs}. John Ruddock
John Grant
Jon^a. Payson &
Samuel Adams

were chose for the Year ensuing.

Voted that the Assessors be aud they hereby are Impower'd to Sit on every Thursday from this day, untill the last Thursday in April next inclusive, & no longer for making an Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as they shall judge reasonable, saving that they have liberty to sit, the two last Weeks in November

next, to Abate (if they see cause) the Taxes of all such Persons as shall appear to them, to have been out of the Province and so could not have made Application to them for an Abatement by said last Thursday in April.

Voted that M^r. Samuel Phillips Savage

M^r. William Story
Joseph Dowse Esq^r.
John Rowe Esq^r. &
M^r. Thomas Tyler

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Accompts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accompts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are appointed and impowered to inspect every particular Accompt of the Monies expended for the use of the Alms-house, they are also Impowered when they shall Audit said Accompts, to allow to said Overseers or such of them, as shall Advance Monies for the Relief of [425½.] The Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the time Advanced, 'till they shall Audit said Accompts.

The State of the Town Treasury, as exhibited by the Town Treasurer, and on file was Read.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. "In what manner it will be best to Repair the Granary in the Common." was considered of, and after some Debate thereon, Voted that the Selectmen be, & they hereby are desired to Consider of the best way of repairing said Granary hear the proposals that shall be made by the Hon^{ble}. Tho^s. Hancock Esq^r. relating to the same, and then Alter & Repair said Granary in such manner as they shall think proper.

Voted that such Matters and Things as remain unfinished, be and hereby are referred over to the General Town Meeting in May next, to be then Considered of, and Acted upon.

Voted that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby is given to John Phillips Esq^r. the Moderator of this Meeting, for transacting the Affairs and Buisness thereof.

Then the Meeting was Dismiss'd.

[426.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and Warned in Public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the fifteenth day of May A.D. 1759.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Mather Byles.

The Precept & Warrant for calling the Meeting, Read.

Sundry Laws Read.

Joshua Henshaw Esq^r. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the Choice of one or more Persons to represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at Boston upon Wednesday the thirtieth day of May curr^t. in order thereto, to Consider and Ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected, accordingly It was Voted to proceed to the Choice of four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen, that no Votes would be received after twelve o'Clock but the Poll then closed.

The Votes being Collected, the Number of Voters were found

to be 469, and upon Sorting them, it appeared that the three following Gentlemen only were chose viz^t.

	Votes.
The Hon ^{ble} . Thomas Hubbard Esq ^r	380
M ^r . John Tyng &	291
Benjamin Prat Esq ^r	302.

which being declared, the Inhabitants were directed, to bring in their Votes for one Representative, which they accordingly did, and it appeared that there was 343 Votes, and upon Sorting them there was no Choice, then the Meeting was Adjourn'd to three o'Clock in the Afternoon for the Choice of another Representative, the Selectmen at the same time declaring that the Poll would be clos'd at four o'Clock, and no Votes received [426½.] After, and said Meeting is Adjourned to that time accordingly.

Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, the Inhabitants assembled and brought in their Votes for one Representative, and upon Sorting them it appeared that no Person was chose, and then the Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Vote again, and upon Sorting them it appeared that

Thomas Flucker Esq^r. was chose.

The Inhabitants then brought in their Vote for a Moderator, and upon Sorting them, it appeared that,

John Phillips Esq^r. was chose.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. To determine whether the Town will remove one of the Shops on the North side of Faneuil-Hall Market, in order to have a Passage way from thence into Union Street by Building a Bridge or in any other manner the Town shall judge best was taken into Consideration and after some Debate thereon, It was moved and Seconded that a Committee may be appointed to make Enquiry whether the Town have a right to open a Passage way as propos'd and erect a Bridge there without prejudicing the Abutters, that they Converse with the Abutters concerning it, compute the whole Expence that may attend the effecting said Bridge Passage way &c^a. and Report the same at the proposed Adjournment of this Meeting. And it pass'd in the Affirmative, & Voted that the Selectmen be the Committee for those purposes.

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants for paving that part of Cross Street that leads into Back Street was Read, and Voted that the Selectmen cause said Street to be Pav'd provided the Abutters pay their proportionable part as [427.] Usual, the same to be pav'd according to the direction of the Selectmen.

The Article in the Warrant, Whether the Town will make Application to the General Court for Relief as to their proportion of the Public Taxes, was taken into Consideration, and after some Debate thereon, Voted that Benjamin Prat Thomas Greene Richard Dana James Boutineau Esq^{rs}. Doct^r. William Clarke, John Rowe John Ruddock and Royal Tyler Esq^{rs}. M^r. Oxenbridge Thacher, M^r. Thomas Cushing, M^r. Isaac Walker, M^r. Nathaniel Bethune M^r. Samuel Adams and Andrew Oliver jun^r. Esq^r. be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to make such Application to the General Court from time to time as they shall judge proper, in

order to obtain Relief as to the proportion of the Public Taxes, and in the Name and Behalf of the Town to prefer any Petition or Petitions to the General Court as said Committee shall think effectual for those purposes.

The Town took into Consideration that Article in the Warrant viz^t. What method can be taken for Regulating the quantity of Firewood brought into Town for sale by Land Carriage, and there-upon Voted that John Rowe Esq^r. Cap^t. William Tayler M^r. Robert Auchmuty M^r. Samuel Swift and M^r. William Story be & they hereby are appointed a Committee to consider what Method they apprehend best for the Town to take for ascertaining the Measure & Quantity of Wood bro't to Town by Land Carriages, & Report their Opinion to the Town at the propos'd Adjournment of this Meeting.

Voted that Mess^{rs}. William Fairfield Benjamin Dolbeare & Thomas Foster be & they hereby are Appointed a Committee to consider in what manner it will be best to repair, or to raise the Brick Wall in the South Burial Place on the back of the Work-house & the Expence of doing the same, & Report their Opinion thereon at the Adjournment of this Meeting.

[427½.] Voted that the Sum of Seven Thousand Pounds be rais'd by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for the Relief of the Poor, and defraying other necessary Charges, arising within the Town the Year ensuing.

Voted that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Peleg Wiswall for his Salary as Master of the North Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar-School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid to M^r. Abia Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly and to Commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid to M^r. Zach^a. Hicks for his Salary as Master of the North writing School the ensuing Year, to be paid him quarterly, and to Commence at the expiration of the last quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Samuel Holyoke for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen-Street for the ensuing Year, to be paid him quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed and paid to M^r. John Procter for his Salary as a Master of the Writing School in Queen-Street [428.] The ensuing Year, to be paid him quarterly and to Commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid to M^r. Nathaniel Gardner for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar-

School, the ensuing Year, to be paid him quarterly, & to Commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allow'd & paid to M^r. Ephr^m. Langdon for his Salary as Usher of the North Grammar School the ensuing Year, to be paid him Quarterly, & to Commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allow'd & paid to M^r. John Vinal for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in the Common the ensuing Year, to be paid him Quarterly, & to Commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allow'd & paid to M^r. John Tileston for his Salary as Usher of the North writing School the ensuing Year, to be paid him quarterly, and to Commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and paid to M^r. David Jeffries for his Services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office.

The Committee appointed the 14th. March AD 1758. to Audit the Accompts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries, now report that they have attended that Service & find the same right cast and well vouch'd, in which he charges himself with Sundry Fines, Rents and other Incomes of the Town, also with the Tax of £6000, all which amounts (including the ballance of the old Acco^t.) to £7817,,3,,4,, $\frac{3}{4}$. and the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abate-ments made the Collectors, by Draughts made by the Selectmen amounting to £2856....18....9 $\frac{1}{4}$. and by Draughts made by the Overseers [429.] of the Poor, which contain the Charges of the Alms-house and Workhouse amounting to £1811,,3,,0 $\frac{3}{4}$ which we have inspected in a very particular manner by examining every particular Voucher produced by the Overseers for the amount of that Sum, and every other branch of Public Charge, all amounting to £7437,,3,,0 $\frac{1}{4}$ by which it appears that when all the Taxes Rents and Incomes of the Town are *in*, the ballance will be £380,,0,,4 $\frac{1}{2}$ which the said Treasurer is further to Account for, as appears by the Tryal ballance of said Account given in by said Committee and on File. Which Report and Account being Read, Voted that the same be, and hereby is Accepted.

Voted that this Meeting be and hereby is Adjourned to Tuesday the 12th. of June next, at 9 o'Clock in the forenoon.

June 12th. 1759.—The Town mett according to Adjournment.

The Selectmen appointed a Committee the sixteenth of May 1758 to Visit the Schools now made the following Report viz^t.

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 15th. 1759. —

Pur-uant to the Vote of the Town of Boston at their Meeting the sixteenth of May last desiring the Selectmen to visit the Schools and invite such Gentlemen to accompany them as they should think proper, do now Report,

That on the 28th. day of June last we attended that Service accompanied by the following Gentlemen viz^t.

His Excellency Governor Pownall
 His Honour Lieu^t. Gov^r. Hutchinson
 The Hon^o. Jacob Wendell Esq^r.

Samuel Wells
 Samuel Waldo
 Andrew Oliver
 Stephen Sewall
 John Erving Esq^r.

The Gentⁿ. the Represent^{ves}. of Boston

The Gentⁿ. the Overseers of the Poor.

The Rev^d. D^r. Joseph Sewall

M^r. Eben^r Pemberton

M^r. Sam^l. Mather

M^r. Andrew Eliot

M^r. Sam^l. Cooper

M^r. Treas^r. Gray

Joshua Winslow Esq^r.

Richard Dana Esq^r.

Stephen Greenleaf Esq^r.

Samuel Grant Esq^r.

M^r. Thomas Hill

M^r. Treas^r. Jeffries

M^r. Samuel Adams

M^r. Oxenbridge Thacher &

M^r. William Story

And found in the South Grammar School there was 107 Scholars, in the South Writing School 230 Scholars, in the Writing School in Queen street 230 Scholars, in the North Grammar School 35 Scholars, in the North Writing School 224 Scholars, all in very good Order. Read and Accepted and Voted that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be and they hereby are desired to visit the Schools this present Year, and invite such Gentlemen to accompany them as they shall think proper.

The Committee appointed the 15th of May last to consider what Method can be taken for regulating the quantity of Firewood brought into Town for Sale, by Land Carriage, Reported, that they had duly considered the matters to them Referr'd, and that they are convinced that the Town has been greatly imposed upon in the purchase of Wood brought to Market by Land Carriage to the amount of several hundred pounds lawful money yearly which Imposition daily increases to the great detriment of the Poor of the Town, and to prevent which it is their Opinion that application be made to the General Court that an Act be pass'd prohibiting the Sale of any Wood brought by Land-Carriage except it be of the length of four feet as is already provided by Law for Wood brought by Water, and to be subject to an Admeasurement by such [431.] Person or Persons as shall be appointed under Oath by the Town for that purpose. Which being Read, Voted, that the same be Accepted. Also Voted that John Rowe Esq^r. Mess^{rs}. William Tayler Robert Auchmuty Samuel Swift and William Story be, & they hereby are appointed a Committee to prefer a Petition to the General Court, praying

that a Law may be pass'd for the several purposes mentioned in the aforesaid Report.

The Committee appointed the 15th. of May last to make Enquiry whether the Town have aright to open a Passage way on the North side of Faneuil-Hall Market into Union Street, and erect a Bridge there without prejudice to the Abutters, & to converse with the Abutters concerning it, & compute the whole Expence that may attend the effecting said Bridge Passage way &c^a. do now Report, That they have conferr'd with the Abutters who strongly object to the same and urge that they have an exclusive right to the Dockage therein, but that they had not time thoroughly to discuss the merits of their said Claims, That they had also considered what would be the Cost of building the proposed Bridge and find it would be upwards of One hundred Pounds Lawful money besides the loss of the annual rent of the Shop proposed to be demolished and therefore they can't think it prudent in the Town at present to open the Passage-way or erect the Bridge in the manner proposed. which being Read, Voted that the same be and hereby is Accepted.

The Committee appointed the 15th. day of May last to consider in what manner it will be best to repair or to raise the Brick-Wall in the South Burial place on the back of the Work-house, and the Expence of doing the same, now Report, that they had considered the said Affair and find that the proprietors of the Tombs, by their Grant are obliged to build and keep in Repair the Brick-Wall at the head of their Tombs, almost all of which are now very much out of Repair, that when they have repaired them, the Committee are of Opinion that if the Town raise the Wall four feet nine inches higher, one hundred and four feet in length, it will [432.] Answer the proposed design, the Cost whereof will be about Thirty five Pounds Lawful money. which being Read and considered of, Voted that said Report be not accepted. And after some debate Voted that the Selectmen for the time being be and they hereby are desired to take such Methods as they shall judge proper to cause the Proprietors of such Tombs as are out of repair from time to time to repair the Brick-Walls belonging to the Tombs in said Burial place according to the Conditions of the Grants made when liberty was given for erecting said Tombs.

The Committee appointed the twelfth day of March last to consider the Article in the Warrant for widening Ann-Street and repairing the Pavement there, whether it will not be more convenient for the Town to have said Street widened, the manner of doing it, and what is necessary for the Town to do in order to effect the same. now Report as their Opinion that it will be most convenient for the Town the said Street shou'd be widened, and that the Front of the House belonging to the Heirs of M^r. Jeremiah Allen be moved back from the Street at the Northerly end three feet eight inches and that from from thence a line be run South, part Westerly so as to cut off the front of said house eight feet at the extreme part of the Southerly end, and that the Selectmen be impowred to draw on the Treasury for a Sum not exceeding forty pounds to him or them who shall effect the same provided

it be done in such way and manner as they shall approbate, and that the Town be at no further Charge respecting this removal. As to paving the said Street the Committee are further of Opinion that it be left to the discretion of the Selectmen which Report was Read, and thereupon

[433.] Voted that the same be and hereby is Accepted.

Also voted that the Selectmen for the time being be and they hereby are directed and empowered to give a Draft on the Town Treasurer for a sum not exceeding Forty pounds to such Person or Persons to whom the same shall be due when said Street shall be widened in the manner mentioned in the Report aforesaid, and that the Town be at no further Charge respecting the same, and that the paving said Street be left to the discretion of said Selectmen.

The Article in the Warrant viz' Whether the Town will take at their risque such Tickets in Boston Lottery N^o. seven, as may remain unsold on the day that shall be fixed by the Managers for drawing it." was taken into Consideration, And thereupon Voted that the Town will take at their risque said Ticketts accordingly.

Voted that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby is given to the Moderator of this Meeting for transacting the Buisness thereof.

Voted that all Matters & Things that are unfinished at this Meeting be & hereby are referr'd over to the Meeting called this day by a new Warrant to be then Acted upon.

And then this Meeting was dismiss'd.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in Public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil-Hall on Tuesday the Twelfth day of June AD 1759

The Warrant for calling the Meeting Read.

The Precept for choosing one Representative in the room of the Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq^r. Read.

[434.] The Freeholders and other Inhabitants pursuant to said Precept proceeded to the choice of one Representative and brought in their Votes and upon Sorting and Counting 'em it appeared that Royall Tyler Esq^r. was chose, which being declared,

The Town chose John Phillips Esq^r. for the Moderator of the Meeting to transact the other Buisness mentioned in the Warrant.

Voted that the Meeting be Adjourned to 3 o'clock in the Afternoon.

June 12th 1759. Three o'Clock P.M. The Town mett.

The Article in the Warrant for considering of some Method to prevent the Engrossing of Hay brought by Water Carriage was debated, & Voted that said Article be dismiss'd.

The Article in the Warrant viz'. whether it will not be for the Interest of the Town to shut up Faneuil-Hall Markett for such a time as may be thought proper, was considered, and after a considerable Debate thereon, Voted that Faneuil-Hall Markett be shut up for the space of six Months from this day.

The Article in the Warrant viz'. To determine whether such of the Inhabitants as do not give in to the Assessors a Valuation of

their Estates, shall be Abated any part of the Tax Assess'd 'em, was taken into Consideration, and thereupon It was Voted, that the Assessors be & they hereby are directed not to abate any part of the Tax of such of the Inhabitants, as do not give or send in to them upon Oath a List or Valuation of their Rateable Estates within the time said Assessors shall fix for bringing in the same, except of such of the Inhabitants as were not in the Province within the time limited by the Notification of the Assessors for doing it. Also Voted that this Order or Vote shall not be construed to extend [435.] In such manner as to abridge the power the Assessors have by the standing Law of the Province for relieving of Poor Persons in their Taxes.

The Article in the Warrant viz'. "Whether the Town will reconsider their Vote pass'd in May last, for raising the Sum of Seven Thousand Pounds for defreying the Expences of the current year was Considered of, and after some debate thereon, It was Voted that only the Sum of Four Thousand five hundred Pounds be rais'd by a Tax on the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town for defreying the Expences of the current year, the Vote pass'd in May last notwithstanding.

Voted that Five Pounds on the Hundred be and hereby is allowed to such Gentlemen as have or shall lend Money to the Town, the same to be deducted out of their Tax, and the Collectors are hereby ordered to discount after the rate of five p Cent to such persons, as shall lend any Sums of Mowey to the Town, out of their Tax when they receive the same.

Then the Meeting was Dismiss'd.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualifed and warned in Public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil-Hall on Friday the 27th. of July AD 1759.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting Read.

John Phillips Esq^r. was chose Moderator.

The Town proceeded to Act on the Petition of many Inhabitants praying that Faneuil-Hall Markett [436.] May be open'd, and after a Considerable debate thereon, It was moved & seconded, that a Question be put, viz'. Whether said Markett shall be now open'd, and that it be determined in the following manner viz'. such of the Inhabitants as are for opening said Markett write Yea, and such as are not write Nay, and that the Votes be so received, and said Question being put, it pass'd in the Affirmative, thereupon the Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes, & upon Sorting 'em it appeared there were 158 Yeas & 132 Nays, The Moderator then declared that by Vote Faneuil-Hall Markett is to be now open'd.

The Town then Voted that M^r. Oxenbridge Thacher John Rud-dock Esq^r. Richard Dana Esq^r. Cap^t. Nathaniel Greenwood and Joshua Winslow Esq^r. be & they hereby are appointed a Com-mittee to consider what additional Rules and Orders, to those now in force may be necessary to be pass'd by the Town for the better regulating Faneuil-Hall Markett, and reducing the exorbitant

price of Provisions ; and said Committee are desired to make Report of their doings hereon at the intended Adjournment of this Meeting.

Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned to Friday the third day of August next at ten o'Clock in the forenoon.

Friday August the 3^d. 1759 The Town mett according to Adjournment.

The Committee appointed the 27th. of July last to Consider of further regulations for Faneuil-Hall Markett, Report that they have attended that service and apprehend the principal cause a Market can be supposed to be, of the raising the price of Provisions arises from the too long continuance of it, and from the Markett People's being allowed to stay till one o'Clock and that if the Market were shut at eleven, it would be an advantage both to those who usually buy at the Markett, and those who depend on being supplied at their own Houses. As the Sellers would sooner [437.] Take up with the price offered by the one and sooner disperse to supply the other. But as the shutting the Markett-house only, wou'd rather increase the Nusances of the People with their Teams and Horses on the outside of the house, and in eff ct continue the Market there it will be necessary to make it penal for any to buy out of the Market hours in Dock Square. They have therefore drawn a Bye-Law to take in these proposals which they herewith present, and as they are new, and therefore shou'd be tried before they are fixed, the Law is drawn so as to be in force for four Months only, in which time their useful or contrary effect may be better determined. Which Report was Read and Accepted, and the Bye-Law referr'd too in said Report was Read several times, which is as follows.

For the better Regulation of Faneuil-Hall Markett.

It is Ordered and Voted that from and after the twenty first day of August current, and from thence for the space of four Months the Market of Faneuil-Hall shall be daily shut up at eleven o'Clock in the forenoon, and shall not be open any more that day excepting on Saturdays in the Afternoon, and on other Afternoons preceeding days set apart by this Government for religious Service. And that during that space of four Months no Inhabitant of this Town shall buy any Provisions out of these Markett hours in any part of Dock square, as described in these limits following, to wit, beginning at the Swing Bridge running thence to M^r. Henderson Inches Warehouse, from thence to the Corner house occupied by M^r. Peter Minot, thence to the Corner house occupied by M^r. Peace Cazneau, thence to the Dwelling house now improved by Mess^{rs}. John & Jonathan Amory, thence to the Dwelling house of the Hon^o. Eliakim Hutchinson Esq^r. thence to the [438.] Store improved by M^r. Timothy Newell thence to the Corner of the Store improved by the Hon^o. Thomas Hubbard Esq^r. and from that Corner to the Swing Bridge aforesaid, unless the Buyer be an Inhabitant within those Limits. And every Inhabitant of this Town for each breach of this Law shall forfeit the Sum of five

shillings, and if such Buyer be a Son under Age or Servant, the penalty shall be paid by his Parent or Master or Mistress.

And after due Consideration thereof Voted that said Bye-Law be and hereby is pass'd, and that the Town-Clerk prepare an Attested Copy of the same & present it to the Court of Sessions to be held at Boston on Tuesday the 14th. of August instant for their Approbation and Allowance.

Voted that the Selectmen be desired to appoint one or more Persons to observe all such as may be guilty of the Breach of said Law and prosecute them for the same.

Then the Meeting was Dismiss'd.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil-Hall on Monday the tenth day of March AD 1760.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Mr. Andrew Eliot.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting . . . Read.

Sundry Laws Read.

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq^r. is chose Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the [439.] Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire & Rhode Island as required by the Act of the Province.

Ezekiel Goldthwait was unanimously chose Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, and having taken the Oath rel^a. to his receiving and paying Bills of Credit of the other Governments took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty, which were Administred to him by John Phillips Esq^r.

Sundry Petitions Read.

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen and the Votes being brought in and Sorted it appeared that

Joshua Henshaw Esq^r.

Joseph Jackson Esq^r.

Mr. Thomas Cushing

M. Samuel Hewes

Mr. John Scollay

Mr. Benj^a Austin &

Andrew Oliver jun^r. Esq^r.

were chose, and they took the oath relating to their receiving and paying in Bills of the other Governments as required by Law.

John Rowe Esq^r. made a motion which was Seconded, That as his Excellency Governour Pownall is appointed by His Majesty Governour of the Province of South Carolina, and his Excellency will soon leave this Province, that the Mind of the Town may be known whether they will present an Address to his Excellency to return him Thanks for the many great and important Services he has done the Province during his Administration, Thereupon it was unanimously Voted that an Address be presented to his Excellency accordingly, and the Selectmen having prepared one, it was Read, and is in the Words following viz^t.

[440.] To his Excellency Thomas Pownall Esq^r. Captain General Governour and Commander in Chief in and over His

Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New England,
Vice Admiral of the same.

May it please your Excellency,

We the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at our Annual Meeting Assembled beg leave with great respect and the sincerest good Wishes to Address your Excellency on your intended departure from us.

While we Congratulate your Excellency upon the repeated marks of our Sovereign's approbation & acceptance, your important services to His Majesty's Interest, and to this Province, at the same time permit us to assure you, that the People who enjoy the fruit of these Services are not insensible of them nor of their Obligations to your Excellency.

Your unwearied attention to the Security and Welfare of this whole Community, your tender regard to our Civil & Religious Rights, the singular Oeconomy which you have preserved in all Public Expeuces, and your Zealous Care that the People's Money should be employed for His Majesty's Real Service, and the People's benefit, the Patronage you have afforded to our Trade and Commerce, and the kind concern which you have always expressed for the Interest of this Metropolis in all it's Branches demand our Warm & respectful acknowledgments and must leave in our minds a long and grateful Remembrance of your Administration — Touch'd with this Retrospect may we be allowed to say that we cannot but regard with some mixture of regret that fresh token of the Royal Favour to your Excellency which so early removes you to another Province.

We ardently wish your Excellency under the Care & Blessing of Heaven a prosperous Voyage and that your Talents may long continue to be employed with Honour and Success in the Service of His Majesty & for the public Good. And thereupon it was unanimously Voted that the same be accepted, and that the Town Clerk prepare a fair [441.] Copy of the said Address, and that the Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq^r. the Moderator of this Meeting, & the Gent^{rs}. the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to wait on his Excellency the Governour, and in the Name of the Town present said Address to him.

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon Sorting 'em it appeared that,

John Phillips Esq^r.

Mr. Isaac Walker

Ebenezer Storer Esq^r.

Excus'd.

Mr. John Barrat

Mr. John Tudor

Royall Tyler Esq^r.

Thomas Flucker Esq^r.

Mr. William Phillips

James Pitts Esq^r.

Excus'd

Mr. Isaac Smith

Mr. Benj^a Dolbear

Melatiah Bourn Esq^r.

were chose for the Year ensuing.

The Votes were brought in for a Town Treasurer and upon reviewing 'em it appeared that M^r. David Jeffries was chose, and having taken the Oath relating to his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the neighbouring Governments took the Oath for the faithful discharge of his Duty.

Voted that twelve persons be chose as Constables for the Year ensuing separate from the Collectors of Taxes.

Voted that any Person chose into the Office of a Constable for the ensuing Year be excus'd from Serving on his paying a Fine of Four Pounds.

Voted that the Town proceed to the choice of twelve Constables immediately and the Vote being in it [442.] Appeared that

Mess ^{rs} . Augustus Hale	Sworn
Nath ^l . Thayer	Sworn
Francis Salmon	Sworn
W ^m Waite Wallis	Sworn
John Rogers	Sworn
James Thomas	Sworn
John Liswell	Sworn
Samuel Bradley jun ^r	Sworn
Abraham Howard	Sworn
Joseph Gendall	Sworn
Eliphalet Parker	Sworn
John Mills	Excus'd

The Town brought in their Votes for a Clerk of Faneuil Hall Market, and upon Sorting 'em it appeared that Abijah Adams was chose Clerk for the Year ensuing.

Ebenezer Storer and James Pitts Esq^r. who are chose Overseers of the Poor pray'd the Town will excuse them from any further attendance in that Office, Voted that they be Excus'd accordingly, Also Voted that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby is given to said Ebenezer Storer and James Pitts Esq^r. for the good Services they have done the Town as Overseers of the Poor for some Years past.

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for two Overseers of the Poor in the room of Ebenezer Storer and James Pitts Esq^r. who are Excus'd and upon sorting 'em it appeared that

M^r. Samuel Dexter &
M^r. Jon^s. Mason. were chose.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. To know whether the Town will give Instructions to their Representatives to use their Endeavours at the next Meeting of the General Court that some proper person be appointed as an Agent for the Province at the Court of Great Britain to manage [443.] the many Affairs of Importance relative to the Province that now are or may be there depending," was taken into Consideration, and thereupon it was Voted that Mess^{rs}. Samuel Adams William Cooper Oxenbridge Thacher John Phillips Esq^r. and Nathaniel Greenwood be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to consider what is best for the Town to do thereon, and Report the same to the Town.

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants that the Assessors may be impowered to abate the Taxes of such of the Inhabitants as were

out of the Province, or had not settled their Books, and could not give in a List of their Rateable Estates to the Assessors within the time limited by the Vote in June last, provided they make it appear to said Assessors that they are Over-rated," was Read, and taken into Consideration & thereupon Voted that said Petition be dismissed.

Voted that, John Rowe Esq^r. M^r. William Phillips and Melatiah Bourn Esq^r. be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to examine the Accompts of the Managers of Boston Lotteries N^{os}. Seven Eight and Nine, and they are desired to make Report thereon to the Town at the Meeting in May next.

Mess^{rs}. Cornelius Thayer . . . Sworn
 Nathaniel Parker . . . Sworn
 Nathaniel Hurd . . .
 Daniel Henchman . . . Sworn
 Neal M^o. Intire . . . Sworn
 Thomas Downe . . . Sworn
 Benj^r. Henderson . . .
 William Bowes . . . Sworn
 James Jackson . . .
 Oliver Wiswall . . . Sworn
 Samuel Barrat & . . . Sworn
 Houghton Perkins . . . Sworn

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.

[444.] Mess^{rs}. William Nichols . . .
 William Welch . . . Sworn
 Isaac Vergoose . . . Sworn
 Robert Ford . . . Sworn
 Andrew Symmes . . . Sworn
 Clement Collins . . . Sworn
 William Paine . . .
 Thomas Bailey . . .
 Caleb Ray . . .
 John Longley . . . Sworn
 Nathaniel Wales & . . .
 John Greenough . . . Sworn

were chose Surveyors of Boards for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Aftar Stoddard
 Joseph Webb jun^r.
 George Jeffries
 Andrew Hall
 Benjamin Edes
 John Brown
 John Forsyth
 Nath^l. Thayer
 Edward Holiday
 Nich^o. Gray
 Ebenezer Lowell &
 Henry Perkins

were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Obadiah Low Sworn
 Story Dawes

Nath^l. Wales
 William Moore
 Onesip^s. Tileston &
 Caleb Ray

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing.

M^r. John Gray

was chose Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing.

[445.] Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner &
 Joseph Belknap

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing.

M^r. John Ranstead was chose Hayward for the Year ensuing.

Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned 'till to Morrow Morning nine o'Clock in the forenoon.

Tuesday Morning nine o'Clock the Town met according to Adjournment.

John Phillips Esq^r.
 Joseph Jackson Esq^r
 John Rowe Esq^r.
 M^r. John Scollay
 Royal Tyler Esq^r.
 Cap^t. Newman Greenough
 Cap^t. Solomon Davis
 M^r. Joseph Jackson
 M^r. Samuel Austin
 M^r. William Cooper
 Cap^t. Hopestill Foster
 M^r. John Mico Wendell

were chose Firewards for the Year ensuing.

David Greenleaf . . . Sworn
 Mess^{rs}. William Fairfield
 John Kneeland
 Samuel Edwards
 Benjamin Church
 Joseph Bradford
 William Torrey &
 Jonathan Brown

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Cornelius Thayer Sworn
 Robert Hewes Sworn
 Adino Paddock &
 Jon^s. Blake Sworn

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing.

[446.] Mess^{rs}. John Ranstead
 John Gill
 John Cooper &
 Thomas Palfrey

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing.

Nothing done thereon. In margin. [Tything-Men.]
 Mess^{rs}. David Spear
 Benjamin Barnard Sworn.
 Nathan Spear

Robert Treat
 John Askins
 Edward Cowell
 Samuel Barnard
 Joshua Pico
 John Hobbs
 John Helyer

were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing.

The Selectmen. In margin. [Surveyors of Highways.]

Voted that the Sum of nine pence on the pound be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing for all such Sums as they shall Collect, provided they pay into the Town Treasury one half part of the whole Sum they are obliged to pay him within four Months from the time they receive the Tax Books from the Assessors, and the other half part in three Months after, and also pay into the Province and County Treasuries one half part of the whole Sum they shall be obliged to pay them respectively in Seven Months from the time they shall receive the Tax Books from the Assessors as aforesaid, and the other half part in five Months after; and in Case either of said Collectors shall fail paying, in the manner as aforesaid, the Collector so failing shall not be entitled to the aforesaid Allowance of nine pence on the pound but wholly forfeit the same, provided [447.] Also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen for the faithful discharge of their Duty in said Office, and complying with this Vote.

Mess^{rs}. John Ruddock Esq^r.

M^r. John Grant

M^r. Jonathan Payson

M^r. Samuel Adams,

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing.

The Committee appointed yesterday to consider whether it is best for the Town to give Instructions to their Representatives to use their Endeavours at the next Meeting of the General Court that some proper Person be appointed as an Agent for the Province at the Court of Great Britain to manage the many Affairs of Importance relative to the Province, that now are or may be there depending, Report,

That inasmuch as the General Assembly have so lately dismiss'd their Agent it would be premature for the Town positively to instruct their Representatives to use their Endeavours at the next Meeting of the Court that another may be chosen ——— But as it is highly probable, that the Court will in their own Wisdom judge it proper to enter into the Consideration of so important a matter, the Committee think it expedient that the Town should express their Mind to their Representatives relative to such a Choice and accordingly Report the following Draft. — To M^r. John Tyng Thomas Flucker Esq^r. Benjamin Prat and Royal Tyler Esq^{rs}.

Gentlemen,

When the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Town of Boston

made choice of you to represent them in the General Assembly they entrusted you with all their Power to Act in the Affairs of Government according to your best discretion, and altho. they have no room to doubt but that you have consulted and will continue to consult [448.] the general Interest of the Province and of this Town so considerable a part of it; yet always reserving to themselves the liberty of Communicating their Sentiments to their Representatives as they shall judge convenient, they take occasion at this their annual Town Meeting regularly called to instruct you with regard to an Agency for the Province at the Court of Great Britain.

When you consider how large a share of the Public Burden is born by your Constituents you will not wonder, that they are greatly Concerned that every prudent method may be taken to make it more light: And while they are sensible of the Importance of the many Affairs relative to the Province which are or may be depending at the Court of Great Britain, they would strongly recommend it as a subject of your Enquiry whether such Affairs may not be successfully Conducted there with less Expence than in time past.

Should the General Court in their Wisdom think proper to enter into the Consideration of this matter, your Constituents would express to you their Opinion, That by appointing a Gentleman who resides at or near the City of London the heavy Charge of wholly supporting an Agent sent from this Province would be saved to the People.

Accordingly you are desired to use your best Endeavours that some such Gentleman may be chosen whose Integrity and Abilities are well known there, and who may carry an Influence as well by his own Character Station and Connections as from the Regard which may be paid to him as the Representative of a Province — Nor do we suppose it will be difficult to find such a Person, whose natural Attachments to our Religious as well as Civil Rights, together with the Qualifications before hinted at may recommend him to your Confidence and choice. Which Report being Read and Considered of it is thereupon

Voted that the same be and hereby is accepted, & the Town Clerk is directed to give a fair Copy thereof to each of the Gentlemen the Representatives of the Town.

[449.] The Town brought in their Votes for a County Treasurer, and they were Sealed up by Constable Thomas to be by him kept and returned to the next General Sessions of the Peace to be held for this County.

The Selectmen's Report on the Acco^t. of M^r. John Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past as Entered in his Book (and on File in the Town Clerk's Office) Read and Voted that the same be Accepted, and that M^r. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 40 Bushels of Rye & 20 Bushels of Indian Corn remaining unsold am^o. to £12., 5., 4, and also for the Sum of £478., 15., 11½ Cash now in his hands, exclusive of the Sum of £26., 13., 4 for his Salary and Assistance, as Charged in his Account which is hereby allowed him.

Joseph Jackson Esq^r. M^r. John Scollay & M^r. Timothy Newell are chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, and they are desired and impowered to give all needful directions to the Keeper of the Granary, respecting the quantities of Grain to be Sold, and Setting the price thereof from time to time as occasion shall require.

The Committee appointed the 12th. of March last to Audit the Accompts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries now Report That they have attended that Service, and find the same right cast and well vouch'd, in which he charges himself with Sundry Fines Rents and other Incomes of the Town, as also with the Tax of £4500 all which amount (including the ballance of the old account) to £5533, 7, 1½. And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abatements made the Collectors, by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £2710, 3, 4¼. of which he has paid £2118, 12, 9½. and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the Charges of the Alms-House and Work-house am^o. to £1971, 6, 9 of which he has paid £1460, 4, 0¾.

[450.] The said Committee having inspected said Drafts containing the Charges of the Alms-House and Work-House in a very particular manner by Examining every Voucher produced by the Overseers for the amount of their said Drafts and every other Branch of Public Charge all amounting to £6235, 16, 6. as p^o Acco^t. of Town Treasury in the said Treasurer's Books, Balance whereof being £702, 9, 4¾. is carried to the Debit of new Account. Which Report & Accompt being Read, Voted that the same be and hereby is accepted.

Voted that John Rowe Esq^r. M^r. Will^m Story M^r. Samuel Waterhouse M^r. Thomas Gray & M^r. Samuel Phillips Savage, be and hereby are appointed a Committee to audit the Accompts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accompts of the Overseers of the Poor and the Committee are desired and impowred to inspect every particular Account of the Monies expended for the use of the Alms-House, they are also impowred when they shall audit said Accompts to allow to said Overseers or such of them as shall advance Monies for the Relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the time advanced 'till they shall audit s^d. Accompts.

The Committee to wait on his Excellency Governour Pownall with the Address of the Town to him, Report, that they have so done and that his Excellency was pleas'd to give the following Answer Viz^t.

M^r. Moderator & Gentlemen,

I receive this kind and very affectionate Address of the Town in that high Esteem which I have alway held the respectable from whom it comes, and I desire you to make known my thanks for it.

The Inhabitants of this Capitol zealously regarding the King's Service and the People's Interest as one and the same thing, and bearing testimony that these have been united under my Administration, do me the most effectual honour, for His Majesty never [451.] thinks his Service so well conducted as when it truly serves the Interest of his People.

Wherever the King commands my Services there it must be my

duty and honour to Serve. But tho' my Civil Connections with this Community determine by my present Destination, yet my Attachment to it will ever remain invariable, and my gratitude towards it will ever be an indispensable Duty, and if ever I shall be in any Situation wherein I may be useful to the Civil Religious or Commercial Interests of this Town it will always be my study how I can best Serve it, and my happiness to be able to Serve it.

POWNALL.

Voted that the Assessors be and they hereby are impowered to sit on every Thursday from this time untill the last Thursday of April next inclusive, & no longer for making an Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as they shall judge reasonable, saving that they have liberty to sit the two last Weeks in Nov^r. next to abate (if they see cause) the Taxes of all such Persons as shall appear to them to have been out of the Province, and so could not have made Application to them for an Abatement by said last Thursday in April, and also that they may then abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have dyed Insolvent or become Bankrupts between said last Thursday in April and last of November.

Voted that such Gentlemen as shall lend any Monies to the Town for the use of the Alms-House be and hereby are allowed at and after the rate of five per Cent for such Sums as they shall lend the same to be deducted out of their Tax, and the Collectors are hereby ordered to discount the same out of their Tax when they shall receive it.

Voted that the Selectmen be and they [452.] are hereby desired to take every Method in their Power to reduce the great Number of Licenc'd Houses, and that when any Licenc'd Persons remove or die, that they do not Licence them or others in their Room but when they shall judge it to be of absolute necessity and convenience.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. "To determine what is necessary to be further done for widening Ann Street," was considered of and thereupon Voted that the Selectmen be a Committee to Treat with the Persons Intrested in the House belonging to the Estate of M^r. Jeremiah Allen deceased, or the Guardians of such as are Minors, what they expect to have for so much thereof as is necessary to be taken down for widening said Street, and also Consider whether any further Application is necessary to be made to the General Court for effecting the same, and Report their doings hereon at the General Town Meeting in May next.

Voted that all Matters and Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby is referr'd over to the General Town Meeting in May next, to be then Considered of and Acted upon.

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby is given to the Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq^r. the Moderator of this Meeting for transacting the Buisness thereof.

Then the Meeting was Dismiss'd.

[453.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Public

Town Meeting Assembled at Fanueil-Hall on Tuesday the 13th. day of May AD 1760.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Samuel Checkley jun^r.

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting Read.

Sundry Laws Read.

Joshua Henshaw Esq^r. one of the Selectmen propos'd in their Names to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at Boston upon Wednesday twenty eight day of May current, and in order thereto to consider and ascertain the Number of Gentlemen to be Elected, accordingly, it was Voted to proceed to the Choice of four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen that no Votes will be rec^d. but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Poll shall be clos'd at twelve o'Clock.

The Votes being brought in, the Number of Voters were found to be 997, and upon Sorting' em it appeared that the four following Gentlemen were chose viz^t.

The Hon ^{ble} . Samuel Welles Esq ^r .	had 604
Thomas Flucker Esq ^r .	. . 629
Royal Tyler Esq ^r .	. . 863
John Phillips Esq ^r .	. . 928.

The Choice of Representatives being over and declared by the Selectmen the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a [454.] Moderator of this Meeting, in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant, accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew and bro't in their Votes, and upon Sorting 'em it appear'd that John Phillips Esq^r. was chose.

Then Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned to three o'Clock in the Afternoon.

Three o'Clock P.M. the Inhabitants Assembled.

Voted that Mess^{rs}. Oxenbridge Thacher Benj^r. Kent and James Otis Esq^r. be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to prepare an Answer to the Petition of the Town of Dorchester lately prefer'd to the General Court, wherein they pray that this Town may obliged to pay a proportionable part of the Charges they have been at in rebuilding a Bridge over Naponisit River near Jackson's Mills, and that said Bridge may be established as a County Bridge, and maintained by the County. And said Committee are desired to Sign said Answer and in the name of the Town give it in to the General Court at their next Sessions.

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given for all Public Donations that have been made for the Relief of such Persons as suffered by the great Fire that happened in Town the 20th. of March last, and also for all private Donations that have been made for the same purpose. And that this Vote be made known by inserting it in all the Public Prints.

The Town proceeded to consider what Methods are best to be taken to prevent the Spreading of Fires, and for the more speedy . . . extinguishing of 'em, also of securing Goods Merchandizes &c^a, and [455.] thereupon Voted that the Gentlemen the Fire-

wards of the Town be and hereby are appointed a Committee to consider of this Affair and Report their Opinion what method is best for the Town to take for the purposes aforesaid, and Report the same to the Town.

On the Article in the Warrant viz^t. "Whether the Town will give directions that the Pump in the Well near Dock Square be Repaired, and how the Expences thereof be paid" Voted that this Affair be left to the Selectmen to do therein what they may think proper.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. To consider of the Petition of sundry Inhabitants "that the Town would apply to the Parliament of Great Britain for a Grant to be made for the Relief of such Inhabitants as suffered by the great Fire the 20th. of March last, and also to such of His Majesty's Subjects for further Relief as the Town may think proper," was proceeded upon, and thereupon Voted that John Thomlinson and William Bolland of London Esq^{rs}. be and they hereby are appointed Agents for this Town in order to make Application at Home, in such way and manner as they may think proper for obtaining Relief for the poor distress'd Sufferers that were burnt out by the great Fire which happened in Town the 20th. of March last,

Voted that the Selectmen be a Committee to consider what directions may be proper to be given to the Town Agents in this Affair, & prepare a suitable Letter to be sent to the Agents thereupon, and Report the same at the Adjournment of this Meeting.

Voted that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to make such Application to any of His Majesty's Subjects on this Continent or in the West India Islands for further Relief as they may judge proper.

[456.] Voted that the Gentlemen and Merchants in this Town be and they hereby are desired to write to their Correspondents abroad, and use their utmost Interest with them to afford some assistance towards making up the great Loss sustained by Fire in this Town the 20th of March last.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. "To know the mind of the Town about clearing and opening the Streets and Lanes that have been or may be laid out in that part of the Town that has been lately demolished by Fire, and determine how the Charges arising thereby may be paid," was taken into Consideration and after a considerable Debate thereon, it being moved and seconded the following Question was put viz^t. Whether the new Highway or Street that is proposed by the Commissioners to be laid out thro' part of M^r. John Wheatley's House-Lot fronting King Street and to run back to the South-East near the House Lot of Benj^s. Hallowell Esq^r. will be for the Interest and Convenience of the Town? Voted in the Negative by a great Majority. Also Voted that the Selectmen be desired to inform the Commissioners of said Vote pass'd.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. "Whether the Town will make Application to the General Court that the Taxes of such Inhabitants, as were burnt out, or that sustained Losses by the late Fire may be Abated, was Considered and thereupon Voted that the Selectmen be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to make

Application to the General Court for an Abatement of said Taxes accordingly.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. "Whether the Town will do any thing towards repairing the South-Battery" was Considered, and thereupon Voted that the Selectmen be desired to fence in the Lands of the South Battery, and also Erect a [457.] such a small Building as they may judge to be necessary for the Convenience of it and nothing more be at present done there.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. "What Method can be taken for obtaining Relief as to the number of French Neutrals lately ordered into Town by the General Court for Subsistence, and in what manner those of 'em that remain here shall be supported" was Considered of, but nothing done thereon, as the Town were Informed that each Town in the Province had their proportion of the French Neutrals to provide for, by order of the General Court, and that the Overseers of this Town, must take the same Care of said French Neutrals ordered here as of other Poor.

Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned to Friday the 16th. instant, at nine o'Clock in the forenoon.

May 16th. 1760. The Town met at nine o'Clock in the forenoon according to Adjournment.

Voted that the Sum of Four Thousand five hundred Pounds be rais'd by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within the Town for Relief of the Poor, and defreying other necessary Charges within the Town the ensuing Year.

Voted that the Assessors be and they hereby are directed not to Abate any part of the Tax of such of the Inhabitants as do not give or send in to them a List or Valuation of their Rateable Estates within the time said Assessors shall fix for bringing in the same, except of such of the Inhabitants as were not in the Province within the time limited by the Notification of the Assessors for doing it, Also Voted that this Order or Vote shall not be Construed to extend in such a manner as to abridge the Power the Assessors have by the standing Law of the Province for relieving of Poor Persons in their Taxes.

[458.] Voted that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Peleg Wiswall for his Salary as Master of the North Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar-School the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and paid unto M^r. Abia Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing-School in the Common the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly and to Commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Zachariah Hicks for his Salary as Master of the

North-Writing School the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly & to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Samuel Holyoke for his Salary as a Master of the Writing School in Queen Street the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly, & to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed and paid to M^r. John Procter for his Salary as a Master of the Writing-School in Queen-Street the ensuing Year to be paid him quarterly, and to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher in the South Grammar School the ensuing Year, to be paid [459.] him quarterly and to Commence from the time he entered upon that Service.

Voted that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Ephraim Langdon for his Salary as Usher in the North Grammar School the ensuing Year, to be paid him Quarterly and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Vinal for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in the Common the ensuing Year, to be paid him Quarterly, and to Commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Tileston for his Salary as Usher in the North Writing School the ensuing Year, to be paid him quarterly and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted that the Sum of Twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Peleg Wiswall Master of the North Grammar School, in Consideration of his faithful Services of his duty as Master of said School.

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. David Jeffries for his Services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office.

Voted that the Sum of Twenty Pounds be allowed and paid to M^r. Abijah Adams for his Salary as Clerk of Faneuil-Hall Market the Year past.

The Committee appointed the 13th. ins^d. to consider what directions may be proper to be given to John Thomlinson and William Bollan Esq^r : Agents for [460.] the Town and to prepare a suitable Letter to be sent 'em, now Report a Draft of a Letter for that purpose which being Read and Amended, Voted that the same be Accepted, said Letter as amended being in the Words following viz^t :

Boston New England May 16th. 1760.

Gentlemen,

We suppose you are not unacquainted with the great Calamity that has befallen this Metropolis, in the late Fire the 20th. March last, which has reduced a great part of the Houses and Estates of the Town to ruin.

The General Assembly of this Province mov'd with the sight of such distress have made humble Application to His Majesty on

behalf of the Sufferers, and have desired his Excellency Governour Pownall who soon Embarks for England to present their Address to His Majesty upon this occasion, and to use his good Offices in obtaining the Relief pray'd for, and in remitting what shall be so obtained, but tho' the Town think that such an Application to His Majesty comes with much more Advantage from the Governour and both Houses of Assembly, than it would have done from themselves, yet, so extensive is the Damage sustained that they cannot forbear to entreat the Assistance and relief of their private Friends in Great Britain in behalf of the unhappy Sufferers: they have accordingly Voted that every Gentleman in Town be desired to use his Interest with his Correspondents for the purpose aforesaid, and further we are to acquaint you of the Choice the Town at their Meeting on the 13th. instant made of you as their Agents to Sollicit and make application in any way and manner you think proper upon this occasion, as also to receive any Donations that may be lodged in your hands in Consequence of a number of Letters wrote here by the Merchants in general to their several Correspondents in London and other parts of Great Britain to obtain relief for the many distress'd Families amongst us some of whom from Affluent and many from easy Circumstances are by this sore Calamity reduced to great straits and indigence, the Monies you may receive for this charitable purpose you are desired to remit to the [461.] Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Boston.

Your Characters leave us not the least room to doubt Your readiness to employ your good Offices upon this occasion we therefore think it needless to say any thing to excite your Compassion being assured your Breasts have a tender feeling for the distress'd and are warm with every generous and benevolent Sentiment.

We are,
Gentlemen,

In the Name & by order of the Town Your
most Obed^t. hum: Servants.

JOHN THOMLINSON &
WILLIAM BOLLAN Esq^{rs}.

Voted that the Selectmen prepare fair Copies of said Letter Sign 'em in the Name of the Town and forward them to the Agents as soon as may be.

The Committee appointed the tenth of March last to examine the Accounts of the Managers of Boston Lotteries N^{os}. Seven Eight and Nine, Report that they have attended that Service, and find them right, and that the said Accompts be allowed viz^t.

To Joshua Henshaw Esq ^r .	£ 40	“ 16
Joseph Jackson Esq ^r .	40	“ 7
M ^r . Thomas Cushing	41	“ 5
M ^r . Samuel Hewes	39	“ 6
M ^r . John Scollay	37	“ 1
M ^r . Benj ^a . Austin	39	“ 12
And ^w . Oliver jun ^r . Esq ^r .	38	“ 14

Which Report was Read, & Voted it be Accepted.

The Committee appointed the 13th ins^t. to consider what Methods are best to be taken to prevent the spreading of Fires and for the

more speedy extinguishing of 'em, also for securing of Goods Merchandize &c^a. in the time of Fire made the following Report viz^t.

That for the future the Care and Inspection of the Engines be left to the Firewards, and that when and so often as they shall be found to want repair they take effectual Care to see it done, according to their best discretion, and [462.] that the Accounts of Charges arising hereby be laid before the Selectmen for their Approbation.

That the Fire Hooks be immediately repair'd, and that there be two Hooks to each Engine and that white Rope be affixed to the Hooks — That there be fifteen fathom of white Rope always kept in each Engine House for the more easy pulling down of Houses — That there be two Axes provided for each Engine and affixed thereto. The Committee are further of Opinion that there be two Men added to each Company of Engine Men whose more immediate Buisness it shall be to take Care of the Ropes and Axes, and to do such duty therewith as the Fire-Wards shall direct, those two to be Excus'd from Town duty only. Voted that the same be Accepted.

The Committee appointed the 15th of May last to Visit the Public Schools now Report as follows viz^t.

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 13th. 1760.

Pursuant to the Vote of the Town at their Meeting the 15th of May last desiring the Selectmen to visit the Schools & invite such Gentlemen to accompany them as they shou'd think proper do now Report, That on the fourth day of July last we attended that Service accompanied by the following Gent^a. viz^t.

The Hon^{ble} Samuel Welles
 John Wheelwright &
 Thomas Hancock Esq^{rs}.
 George Cradock Esq^r.
 John Phillips Esq^r.
 Foster Hutchinson Esq^r.
 Ebenezer Storer Esq^r.
 Thomas Flucker Esq^r.
 Richard Clarke Esq^r.
 James Pitts Esq^r.
 Sam^l. Grant Esq^r.
 James Otis Esq^r.
 Royal Tyler Esq^r.
 Belcher Noyes Esq^r.
 Melatiah Bourn Esq^r.

The Rev^d. Doct^r. Sewall
 M^r. Byles
 M^r. Eliot
 M^r. Cooper
 M^r. Isaac Walker
 M^r. John Tudor
 M^r. W^m. Phillips
 M^r. Tho^s. Hill
 M^r. Benj^a. Dolbeare

Mr. John Hamock
 Mr. Tho^s. Tyler
 Mr. Oxen Thacher
 Mr. David Jeffries
 Mr. Alex^r. Chamberlain
 Mr. Sam^l. Swift

[463.] We found in the South Grammar School there were 117 Scholars, in the South Writing School 220 Scholars, in the Writing School in Queen Street 225 Scholars, in the North Grammar School 33 Scholars, and in the North Writing School 220 Scholars, all in very good Order.

Voted that said Report be accepted, and the Selectmen are desired to visit said Schools the ensuing Year as usual, and they are desired to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them, as they may think proper.

Mr. Oxenbridge Thacher mov'd that he may be Excused from being on the Committee appointed to draw an Answer to the Petition of the Town of Dorchester, relating to Rebuilding Nepon-sit Bridge.

Voted that Mr. Thacher be Excused accordingly, and that Benjamin Prat Esq^r. be on said Committee in his Room.

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby is given to John Phillips Esq^r. the Moderator of this Meeting for transacting the Business thereof.

Then the Meeting was Dismiss'd.

[464.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualifed and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at the Town House on Monday the Ninth Day of March Anno Dom^o. 1761.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. D^r. Sewall.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting read.

Sundry Laws enjoyned to be read at this Meeting, were accordingly read.

John Phillips Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire & Rhode Island as required by the Act of the Province; and the Meeting adjourned to the Rev^d. Mr. Cooper's Meeting House.

William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing and having taken the Oath relating to his receiving and paying Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office, for the faithful discharge of his duty, which were administred him by John Phillips Esq.

Voted unanimously that the thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq. for his faithfull services many years past as Town Clerk.

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted it appear'd that

Joshua Henshaw Esq. . . . Excused
 Joseph Jackson Esq. . . . Excused
 Thomas Cushing Esq.

[465.] Samuel Hews Esq.

John Scollay Esq.

Benjamin Austin Esq.

Andrew Oliver Jun^r. Esq. . . . Exeused

were chosen, and Joshua Henshaw Esq. Joseph Jackson Esq. and Andrew Oliver Jr. Esq. desired to be excused, the other Gentlemen accepted, and took the Oath required by Law, respecting the irreceiving and paying Bills of the other Governments.

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town, be and hereby are given unto Andrew Oliver Jun^r. Esq. for his faithfull service as Selectman for some Years past.

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

John Phillips Esq.

M^r. Isaac Walker

M^r. John Barratt

Royall Tyler Esq.

Thomas Flucker Esq.

M^r. William Phillips

M^r. Benjamin Dolbear

M^r. Isaac Smith

Meletiah Bourne Esq.

M^r. Samuel Dexter

M^r. Jonathan Mason

M^r. Henry Bromfield

were chosen for the ensuing year.

Voted that the Petition relative to the Market be taken under consideration 4 O'Clock P M: and that the choice of County Treasurer and Register of Deeds &c^a. for the County be immediately after.

[466.] Upon a motion made and seconded, it was unanimously Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to M^r. John Tudor, for his good services to the Town as an Overseer of the Poor for some years past.

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them it appear'd that —

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

Royal Tyler Esq.

Joseph Jackson Esq.

Thomas Flucker Esq.

Thomas Cushing Esq.

Johan Scollay Esq.

Melatiah Bourn Esq.

Benjamin Austin Esq.

M^r. John Barrat

M^r. William Phillips

M^r. Samuel Dexter

M^r. Samuel Phillips Savage

were chosen for the Year ensuing.

The Votes were brought in for a Town Treasurer, and upon sorting them it appeared that M^r. David Jeffries was unanimously chosen, and having taken the Oath relating to his paying and

receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty which were administered him by John Phillips Esq.

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Firewards and upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Phillips Esq.
 Joseph Jackson Esq.
 John Scollay Esq.
 [467.] Royal Tyler Esq.
 Cap^t. Newman Greenough
 M^r. Samuel Austin
 Cap^t. Solomon Davis
 M^r. William Cooper
 M^r. John Mico Wendell
 M^r. Joseph Jackson
 John Rowe Esq.
 M^r. Henderson Inches

were chosen for the ensuing Year.

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to Rev^d. D^r. Sewalls Meeting House. 3 O'Clock in the Afternoon.

3 O'Clock Afternoon met according to adjournm^t. Upon a motion made and seconded, the question was put whether Collectors of Taxes shall be chosen separte from Constables passed in the affirmative.

Voted, that any Person chosen into the Office of a Constable for the Year ensuing may be excused from serving on his paying the Sum of Four Pounds —

The clause in the Warrant relating to the repairing Faneuil Hall Market, purchasing the Lands adjoining, enlarging the Square around it, and filling up the Dock &c. came under consideration — whereupon after debate the question was put — whether it be the mind of the Town that Faneuil Hall Market be repair'd or rebuilt — passed in the Negative.

At the same time Voted, that the Selectmen be desir'd to take such Methods, as may be necessary for the security of the Walls of Faneuil Hall Market.

[468.] Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to take such steps as the Law directs for the widening the Sireet between Faneuil Hall Market, and Mess^{rs}. Bromfields, Waterhouses and Gibbs Stores.

Voted that James Otis Esq. Ezekiel Goldthwait and Thomas Green Esq. M^r. Isaac Smith and M^r. John Avery be a Committee to confer with the Abutters upon the Town Dock relative to the filling it up, and report at the next May Meeting. —

The Town brought in their Votes for a County Treasurer, which were received and sealed up by Constable Thomas to be by him kept, and return'd to the next Court of the General Session of the Peace to be held for this County.

The Town brought in their Votes for a County Register which were received and sealed up by Constable Thomas to be by him kept & return'd to the next Court of the General Session of the Peace to be held for this County.

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants for paving Rawsons Lane was Read, and a motion made and seconded that Twenty five Pounds be allowed for that purpose — passed in the negative; and then it was Voted that the Petition be dismissed.

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants for paving Bacon Street, was read and the question then put, whether the prayer of the petition should be granted — passed in the negative.

Voted, that the choice of Collectors shall come on to Morrow 10 O'Clock in the Forenoon.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to meet at the Town House, to Morrow Morning 9 O'Clock Forenoon.

[469.] 9 O'Clock A.M. Met according to adjournment and further adjourned to the Rev^d. D^r. Sewalls Meeting House.

Voted, that the Town proceed immediately to the choice of twelve Constables, and the Votes being brought in and sorted it appeared that

Mess ^{rs} .	Augustus Hale	Sworn
	Nathaniel Thayer	ditto
	Francis Salmon	ditto
	James Thomas	ditto
	John Rogers	ditto
	Elisha Byles	ditto
	William Dorrington	ditto
	Samuel M ^c .Clure	ditto
	Eliphalet Parker	ditto
	Stephen Syms	ditto
	John Weld	ditto
	John Crompton	ditto
	were chosen for the ensuing Year	ditto

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Clerks of the Market, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mess ^{rs} .	Cornelius Thayer
	Daniel Parker
	Benjamin Henderson
	Nathaniel Hurd
	Daniel Henschman
	Oliver Wiswall
	Neale M ^c .Intyre
	James Jackson
	William Bowes
	Houghton Perkins
	Thomas Fleet
	John Welch

[470.] were chosen Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.

Mess ^{rs} .	William Moore
	Joseph Russell
	Story Dawes
	Samuel May
	James Barnard
	Onesiphorus Tilestone

were chosen Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. William Nichols
 Isaac Vergose
 Robert Ford
 Andrew Syms
 Clement Collins
 William Paine
 Thomas Bayley
 Caleb Ray
 John Langley
 Nathaniel Wales
 John Grenough
 James Ridgway

were chosen Surveyors of Boards for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Ebenezer Lowell
 Isaac Savage
 John Edwards
 Jonathan Adams
 Benjamin Fitch
 William Bowman
 Edward Hollyday
 Solomon Kneeland
 Benjamin Harrod
 Joseph Calf
 Samuel Smith
 After Stoddard

[471.]

were chosen Scavengers for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. David Spear
 Samuel Barnard
 Nathan Spear
 Robert Treat
 Peter Cotta
 Samuel Treat
 Jonathan Jenkins
 John Haskins
 John Hyllier
 Joshua Pico

were chosen Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing.

Mr. John Gray was chose Surveyor of Hemp.

Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner
 Joseph Belknap

were chosen informers of Deer for the Year ensuing.

Mr. Thomas Chapman

was chosen Hayward for the Year ensuing, but excused.

Mess^{rs}. Martin Gay
 David Cutler

were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing.

The Selectmen In margin. [Survey^{rs}. of High Way]

[472.] Mess^{rs}. Cornelius Thayer

Robert Hews
 Adino Paddock
 Jonathan Blake

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Clement Collins
Jonathan Jenkins
Cap^t. Thomas Stoddard
Leodore Cross

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, that the sense of the Town should be taken upon the following question viz^t. Whether the Selectmen shall be allowed a discretionary power as to the payment of the Premium to the Town Collectors for the Collecting of Taxes in Years past, any former Vote to the contrary notwithstanding. — passed in the affirmative —

Voted that the Sum of Nine Pence on the Pound be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall Collect, provided they pay into the Town Treasury one half part of the whole Sum they are obliged to pay him, within four Mounths from the time they receive the Tax Books from the Assessors, and the other half part in three Months after, and also pay into the Province and County Treasuries one half part of the whole sum they shall be obliged to pay them respectively in seven Months from the time they shall receive the tax Books from the Assessors as aforesaid, and the other half part in five Months after; and in case either of said Collectors shall fail paying in the manner aforesaid; the Collector so failing shall not be entitled to the aforesaid allowance of nine Pence on the Pound, but wholly forfeit the [473.] Same, provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient surties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen for the faithful discharge of their duty in said Office, and complying with this Vote.

Voted, that the Selectmen shall have a discretionary power as to the payment of the Collectors Premiums for the ensuing Year, the above Vote notwithstanding.

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that

John Ruddock Esq.
M^r. Jonathan Payson
M^r. John Grant
M^r. Samuel Adams

were chosen into that Office for the Year ensuing.

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mess^{rs}. William Fairfield
John Kneeland
Samuel Edwards
Benjamin Church
Joseph Bradford
William Torrey
Jonathan Brown

were chose into that Office for the Year ensuing.

The Proposals of D^r. Sylvester Gardner for Erecting an Inoculating Hospital were read, and after long debate the question was put, — Whether there be any Place within the limits of the Town,

where such an Hospital can be Erected, consistent with the safety of the Inhabitants.— passed in the negative.

[474.] Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M:

3 O'Clock P.M: Met according to Adjournment.

The Selectmen reported on the Account of M^r. John Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, which Account as entered in his Books (and on file in the Town Clerks Office) was read, whereupon it was Voted, that the same be accepted, and that M^r. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 1050 Bushels of Corn, and 240 Bushels of Rye remaining unsold amounting to £223 — and also for the sum of £263., 15., 2½ Cash now in his hands exclusive of the sum of twenty six Pounds thirteen shillings and four Pence for his Salary and Assistance, as charged in his Account, which is hereby allowed him.

Joseph Jackson Esq. John Scollay Esq. and M^r. Timothy Newell were chose purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, and they are desired and impower'd to give all needful directions to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the Quantitys of Grain to be sold, and affixing the price thereof from time to time as occasion shall require.

Voted that John Rowe Esq.

M^r. William Story

Cap^t. John Leaveret

M^r. William Gray

Cap^t. William Tayler

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Accounts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries and also the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are eujoin'd to inspect every particular Account of the Moneys expended for the use of the Alms House, they are also impower'd when they shall Audit said Accounts to allow such of the Overseers as shall advance Moneys for the relief of the Poor, Interest on such Sums, from the time so advanced, till they shall have Audited said Account.

[475.] Voted, that the Assessors, be and are hereby directed & impowerd to set for the abatement of such taxes as they shall judge reasonable, on every Thursday, till the first Thursday in April inclusive, and no longer, saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November, for the abatement of the taxes of such Persons as had not an opportunity of applying in the above limited time by reason of their being out of the Province, at which time they are also allowed and impower'd to abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent or become Bankrupts, between the said last Thursday in April and the last Day of November.

Voted, that such of the Inhabitants as shall advance Moneys to the Town for the use of the Alms House, be and hereby are allowed at and after the Rate of Five p Cent upon such sums as they shall so advance, and the Collectors are hereby Order'd to discount those sums together with the allowance thereon out of the said Gentlemens respective Taxes.

The Town brought in their Votes for three Selectmen in the

room of the three Gentlemen who had declined serving, and upon sorting them it appear'd that only

Mess^{rs}. Samuel Sewall

Thomas Gray — excused

were chosen, and Mr. Thomas Gray for reasons mentioned were excused by the Town from serving in that Office.

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Joshua Henshaw Esq. and Joseph Jackson Esq. for their faithful services as Selectmen a number of Years past.

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to the Selectmen for the extraordinary care they have hitherto [476.] Taken to prevent the spreading of the small Pox —

The Town brought in their Votes for a Selectman, and upon sorting them it appear'd, that Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq. was chosen, but for reasons mentioned was excused from serving —

Voted that the Selectmen with such Gentlemen as they shall think proper to invite, be a Committee to visit the Schools —

Voted, that the Selectmen be a Committee to act upon the List of Jurors —

Upon consideration of that clause in the Warrant relating to Ladders &c^a. Voted, that

Cap^t. Solomon Davis

Melatah Bourn Esq.

James Otis Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to draw up a By Law, which shall oblige the Inhabitants to keep one Ladder at least at their several Dwelling Houses —

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to continue their best endeavours, to prevent the spreading of the Small Pox —

A Letter of Mr. Abiah Holbrook Master of the South Writing School, to the Selectmen. to be by them communicated to the Town was accordingly read, but in as much as the matter of said Letter, was not contain'd in the Warrant for calling this Meeting, Mr. Holbrook had leave to withdraw it, and it was thereupon withdrawn —

A Motion made and seconded, that there be a Committee chose to consider of the best method for the repairs of Faneuil Hall, and the [477.] Wayes and means for defreying the Charge of the same, and to Report at the adjournment of this Meeting — whereupon

James Otis Esq.

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

Thomas Greene Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

Mr. William Phillips

Melatah Bourn Esq.

Mr. Samuel Hughes

were appointed a Committee for that purpose.

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to notify the Inhabitants of the time when the Committee appointed to consider of the repairs of Faneuil Hall & are to make their report —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for two Selectmen, & upon sorting them it appear'd that —

Mess^{rs}. Samuel Phillips Savage &
Ezekiel Lewis

were chosen into that Office for the Year ensuing.

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant viz^t. “ Whether it will be necessary for the Town to make any further application to the General Court for relief under their present distressed Circumstances ” It was Voted, that the Committee of the Town rais'd in March 1757 — to make such application to the General Court for relief &c. as they shall from time to time Judge expedient, be and hereby are desired to take this matter under their consideration, and make Application as they shall think proper —

A Motion made and seconded that a Committee may be chosen to draft a Petition, to be prefer'd to the General Court at their next [478.] Session, relative to the Incumbrances on Dock Square, and to Report at the adjournment of this Meeting, whereupon

James Otis Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
M^r. William Story

were appointed a Committee for that purpose.

Voted, that the consideration of School Masters Salarys and all other Salarys be referred to May Meeting.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 23^d. Instant 10 oClock A.M: then to meet at the Town House.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston by Adjournment March 23^d. 1761 — 10 o'Clock A.M.

The Committee appointed to consider of the best method for the repairs of Faneuil Hall &c., and the ways and means for defreying the charge of the same, Reported — That they had considered the matter submitted, and are of opinion that it is for the interest of the Town to have Faneuil Hall repair'd, and that the best method of repairing the same is to have the Roof Slated, the Window Frames of Stone and the Ornaments with as little Wooden work as possible, and as to the ways and means of defreying the charges, they think it best to apply to the General Assembly for a Lottery. Which Report being read, and considerable debate had thereon, It was Voted, — That the same be accepted — Also further Voted — That the Selectmen be & hereby are desired & empower'd to prefer a Petition to the General Court, at their next Sessions, praying that the Hon^{ble}. Court would by an Act empower some suitable Persons to raise by way of Lottery such a sum of Money as may be sufficient for the aforesaid purpose.

[479.] Upon a Motion made and seconded

Voted, that in as much as it will be necessary in order effectually to Repair Faneuil Hall, to Repair in some measure the lower part of said Buildings; It is the Sense of the Town notwithstanding that the lower part shall not be improved as a Market, till the further Order and Determination of the Town.

The Committee Appointed to draw up a By Law which shall oblige the Inhabitants to keep one Ladder at least at their several

Dwelling Houses, Reported as their opinion that such a Law will prove fruitless, and that instead thereof it would be better for the Town to provide about Sixty good Ladders, to be distributed & deposited at convenient places in the Town, and that it be recommended by the Town to the several Fire Meetings to provide themselves with such a number as they may think necessary for their mutual safety, they also apprehend that about three to each Meeting, with the Town Stock would answer all the ends desired. — which report was read and accepted — whereupon it was

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are desired and empower'd to provide as many Ladders for the Town as with the present stock shall make up the number Sixty.

And whereas it would be for the better security of the Town, if the several Fire Societys would provide three Ladders each, to be lodged in such places as they shall Judge most convenient, therefore.

Voted, that such provision be recommended by the Selectmen.

James Otis & Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq. and M^r. William Story being a Committee Appointed to draft a Petition to be prefer'd to the General Court at their next Session relative to the Incumbrances in Dock Square, — Reported the following Draft — Viz^t. —

Province of the Massachusetts Bay

[480.] To His Excellency Francis Bernard Esq. Cap^t. General & Governour in Chief of the Province aforesaid, to the Hon^{ble}. His Majestys Council and House of Representatives in Great & General Court Assembled the Day of March Anno Domini 1761.

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston — humbly sheweth —

That the standing of People with their Horses and Carts in and about Dock Square, and the Streets round the Market Place in said Town is a grievous Incumbrance to all the Inhabitants round said Square and is become a common and constant Nusance, and the lives and Limbs of the Subject, are thereby often endangered, and frequent attempts have been made in the ordinary course of the common Law for preventing the said Nusance, but without the desir'd effect, and the Petitioners apprehend it will be impossible to find a suitable remedy for the abuses aforesaid without the interposition of the Great and General Court, wherefore the Petitioners humbly Pray, that your Excellency and Honors would take this matter into consideration, and that a special act may be passed for preventing the said Nusance, and your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c. Which Draft was Read and accepted, whereupon it was

Voted, that the said Committee be and hereby are desired to present the same as soon as may be.

The Town made choice of Edward Curtis for a Hayward in the room of Thomas Chapman, who was excused from serving in that Office for reasons by him given —

A Motion was made and seconded — that whereas the Committee appointed by the Town March 1757 — to make such applica-

tion to the General Court for relief &c^a. as they shall from time to time Judge expedient, and which then consisted of fifteen Persons, is [481.] Now by reason of deaths, and removals, reduced to the number of Eleven, the Town should therefore now proceed to fill up those vacanays, whereup it was

Voted, that — James Otis Esq.
Ebenezer Storer Esq.
Joseph Jackson Esq.
M^r. John Barratt

be and hereby are added to the said Committee.

Voted, that all Matters and things that remain unfinished, be and hereby are referred over to the Annual Town Meeting in May next, to be then considered of and acted upon —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to John Phillips Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for transacting and dispatching the Business thereof.

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at the Town House on Monday the 23^d. Day of March Anno Domini 1761.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting Read.

The Town proceeded to the choice of a Moderator by a Hand [482.] Vote, and John Phillips Esq. was unanimously chosen Moderator, and took his Seat accordingly.

A Letter of M^r. Zachariah Hicks late Master of the North Writing School was read, and upon a Motion made and seconded — The Thanks of the Town were Voted to the said M^r. Hicks, for his faithful services as a School Master, a number of Years past —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants, Praying that a Muster might be Appointed to the North Writing School in the room of M^r. Hicks who had resign'd — was read.

Also the Petitions of M^r. John Vinall, Usher of the South Writing School; and of M^r. John Tilestone Usher of the North Writing School, each of them praying that he might be appointed to succeed M^r. Hicks as Master of the North Writing School.

Voted, that the Town proceed immediately to the choice of a Master for the North Writing School in the room of M^r. Hicks who had resign'd.

The Town having brought in their Votes, upon sorting them it appeared, that the number of Voters were 403. and that M^r. John Tilestone was chosen Master of the North Writing School by a very great majority. —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[483.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, legally qualified and Warned in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at the Town House on Tuesday the 12th. Day of May AD. 1761.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Samuel Checkley Sen^r.

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting — Read.

Sundry Laws Read.

Thomas Cushing Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great & General Court or Assembled to be held at Boston upon Wednesday the 27 Day of May Current, and in order thereto, to consider and ascertain the Number of Gentlemen to be Elected; accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the Choice of Four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 °Clock

The Votes being brought in; the number of Voters were found to be 334 — and upon sorting them it appeared that the Four following Gentlemen were chosen Viz^t.

- John Phillips Esq.
- Royal Tyler Esq.
- James Otis Esq.
- Thomas Cushing Esq.

The choice of Representatives being over, and declared by the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and [484.] Bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other affairs mentioned in the Warrant; accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appeared that John Phillips Esq. was chosen.

The Petition of a number of the Inhabitants for paving part of Purchase Street was read, and the further consideration referred to 4 °Clock. P.M.

The Consideration of the Report relative to the filling up the Dock to come on immediately after the Town has acted upon the Petition for paving Purchase Street —

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to 3 °Clock P: M:

3 °Clock P: M: The Town met according to Adjournment —

The Committee appointed to examin the Accounts of David Jeffries Town Treasurer have attended that Service, and find the same right cast and well vouch'd, in which he charges himself with sundry Fines, Rents and other Incomes of the Town, as also with the tax of £4500 — all which amount (including the balance of old Account) to £7047,, 9,, 9½ — And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abatements made the Collectors, by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £2750,, 9,, 4½ of which he has paid £1889,, 6,, 3,, and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the charges of the Alms House amounting to £2155,, 11,, 11¼ of which he has paid £11. 8, ,1,, 3½ — amounting in all to £7851,, 1,, 4½ —

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very particular manner, and have examined every Voucher produced by the Overseers for the amount of their Drafts; and every other branch [485.] Of publick Charge, all amount as above to £7851,, 1,, 4½ as by Account of Town Treasury in the said Treasurers Books Balance whereof being £803,, 11,, 7. is carried

to the Debit of New Account — which Report and Account being read — Voted that the same be and hereby is accepted.

Voted, “the Sum of Six thousand Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for relief of the Poor and defraying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year.

Voted, that the Assessors be and they hereby are directed not to abate any part of the Tax of such of the Inhabitants as do not give or send into them, a List or Valuation of their Rateable Estates, within the time said Assessors shall fix for bringing in the same, except of such of the Inhabitants as were not in the Province within the time limited by the Notification of the Assessors for doing it; also that this Order or Vote shall not be construed to extend in such a manner as to abridge the power the Assessors have by the standing Law of the Province for relieving Poor Persons in their Taxes — Also Voted that the above Order be inserted in the Publick Prints —

The Petition of sundry Inhabitants for Paving part of Purchase Street was taken into consideration, whereupon it was Voted, that the Sum of One Hundred Pounds lawful Money be Granted the Petitioners upon condition that they Pave said Street in the manner proposed, to the approbation of the Selectmen.

The Report of the Committee relative to the filling up the Town Dock, was again read and is as follows —

The Committee Appointed at the Annual Town Meeting in [486.] March last to confer with the Abutors upon the Town Dock relative to filling it up, have conferred with them, and we are of opinion that it will be for the Interest of the Town to fill up the Dock as far as a streight line to be run from the Southwesterly Corner of Mr. Joseph Tylers Shop to the Opposite side which will end a few feet East of the Place, where the Towns Shops lately stood. We are also of Opinion the Fish Market, the Engine & Watch Houses had best be removed to some more convenient places. And as to that part of the Dock between said line and the Swing Bridge, we apprehend great cost will arise to the Town by filling up the same, and that its being left open will be of great service in the case of Fire. After considerable debate it was

Voted, that the Report be accepted, and that the Selectmen be desired to see the same carried into execution, and also to agree with some suitable Person or Persons for the digging one or more Wells, that in case of Fire in that part of the Town there may be a constant reservoir of Water for the supply of Engines &c.

Voted, that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed & paid unto Mr. Peleg Wiswall for his Salary as Master of the North Gramar School, for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred and Twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Gramer School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of One Hundred Pounds be allowed and

paid unto M^r. Abiah Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, & to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

[487.] Voted, that the Sum of One Hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Tilestone for his Salary as Master of the North Writing School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Samuel Holyoke for his Salary as a Master of the Writing School in Queen Street, the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Procter, for his Salary as a Master of the Writing School in Queen Street, the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, and to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^r. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher in the South Grammar School the ensuing Year, to be paid him Quarterly and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid to M^r. Ephraim Langdon for his Salary as Usher in the North Grammar School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed & paid to M^r. John Vinal for his Salary, as Usher of the Writing School in the Common the ensuing Year, to be paid him Quarterly, and to Commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter.

[488.] Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Tilestone, Master of the North Wri- School for providing an Assistant, the Year ensuing, to be paid him Quarterly, and to Commence from the time said Assistant enter'd upon that Service.

Voted, That the Sum of One Hundred Pounds, be allowed and paid unto M^r. David Jeffries for his Services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office.

Voted, that the Sum of Twenty Pounds be allowed and Paid to M^r. Abijah Adams, for his Salary as Clerk of Faneuil Hall Market the Year past.

Upon Consideration of that Clause in the Warrant—Viz^t.—“Whether the Town will take any measures for the Repairs of Faneuil Hall in consequence of the Lottery granted by the General Court at their last Session for that purpose”—Voted that the Selectmen be desired to receive proposals from Masons Carpenters &c. for the Repairing Faneuil Hall, and to procure Subscriptions for defreying the Expence thereof upon Credit of an Act of the General Assembly at their last Session for a Lottery for that purpose, and to Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting.

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for an Overseer of the Poor in the room of Thomas Flucker Esq. removed out of Town and upon sorting them it appeared that,

M^r. Joseph Gardner was chosen . . . (sworn)

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for a Warden in the room of Thomas Flucker Esq. removed out of Town & upon sorting them it appear'd that

M^r. John Avery was chosen . . . (sworn)

[489.] Voted, that Royal Tyler & John Scollay Esq. Mess: William Story, Benjamin Kent and Oxenbridge Thather be and hereby are appointed a Committee to draft a By Law, which shall oblige the Inhabitants to sweep their Chimneys as often as is necessary; and Report at the Adjournm^t.

Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned till the 2^d. Wednesday in June next 3 o'Clock P: M: to Meet at the Town House

The Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, met by Adjournment at the Town House June 10 1761 — 3 o'Clock P.M.

Adjourned to the Rev^d. Samuel Coopers Meeting House

The Committee Appointed to Draft a By Law, which shall oblige the Inhabitants of the Town to sweep their Chimneys as often as may be necessary; Reported the following Draft — viz^t. —

For as much as the provision made in the By Law of this Town now in force for preventing the Chimneys being fired hath proved ineffectual to that purpose, and the Town is frequently alarmed and greatly endangered by such fires, to the end that this town may not hereafter be exposed to such Alarms & dangers.

It is Ordered & Voted, that from and after the first of August Anno Domini 1761 — every chimney in the town where fire is commonly kept, which can be swept, shall be swept once at least in every three months on penalty of six shillings to be paid by every occupant of such chimney which shall not be thus swept. And the undertaker or undertakers for sweeping of [490.] Chimneys in this Town for the time being, are hereby directed and ordered to go to the several houses and Warehouses and shops in this town wherein are and shall be chimneys so improved, and warn the occupants thereof of this By Law, and also to keep fair and regular entries in a book of all chimneys by him or them swept, and the time of sweeping them, and who are the occupants of the houses, warehouses and shops wherein such chimneys are, which books shall be always open to the selectmen and to the firewards of the town: And the said undertaker or undertakers are hereby further directed to prosecute all persons who shall be guilty of the breach of this law, and in all such prosecutions the burden of proof shall be understood to ly on the occupant of the chimneys, and he shall be deemed the Occupant of the chimney, who improved the same at the expiration of three months, and in all such prosecutions the undertaker or undertakers aforesaid, shall be obliged to produce the Books aforesaid before the Justice before whom the tryal may be, and if the undertaker or undertakers aforesaid shall wittingly connive at the breach of this law or shall make a false entry of the sweeping of such chimneys or shall not enter in the said book the

chimneys by him swept and the time thereof whereby an innocent person shall be exposed to prosecution such undertaker or undertakers for every such offence shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten shillings: All penaltys and forfeitures arising by this law shall be as the law directs to the poor of the town, and whosoever shall prosecute to effect any of the breaches thereof, shall be entitled to receive one half as much out of the treasury of this town to his own use as the offender shall be adjudged to pay to the use of the poor. It is further Ordered, and Voted, that this law shall not be understood in any wise to repeal or make void the provisions of the By Laws of this town relating to this matter revised and published in the Year 1758.

The Foregoing Order or By Law having been read [491.] Several times, — Voted, that the same be accepted, and that the Town Clerk present it to the Court of General Sessions of the Peace next to be holden at Boston for the County of Suffolk, for their approbation.

The Committee appointed to receive proposals for Repairing Faneuil Hall &c. reported the same, whereupon Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are desired to agree immediately with the several Tradesmen, for carrying on the Repairs of said Faneuil Hall, with all convenient dispatch.

In consequence of a Motion made, that a Cellar might be dug under Faneuil Hall — Voted, that this matter be left to the Gentlemen Selectmen they to act as they may Judge proper.

Voted that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to John Phillips Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting, for transacting and dispatching the Business thereof.

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, legally qualified and Warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at the Town House on Wednesday the 10 Day of June Anno. 1761 — 4 o'Clock P.M.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting Read.

[492.] The Town proceeded to the choice of a Moderator by a hand Vote, and John Phillips Esq. was unanimously chosen Moderator and took his seat accordingly —

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Rev^d. Samuel Coopers Meeting House —

The Town took into consideration that Clause in the Warrant viz^t. — Whether they will be at the Charge of increasing the number of Watchmen, and advancing their Wages, or enter into any other measure, for the better security of the Town; and after some debate it was Voted that Samuel Wells Esq. M^r. William Story, Thomas Green Esq. John Ruddock Esq. and M^r. William Cooper, be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take this matter under their consideration, and to report their opinion at the Adjournment.

Voted that Joseph Jackson and Joshua Henshaw Esq. be added to the above Committee.

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday next 3

°Clock P.M: to Meet at the Rev^d. Samuel Coopers Meeting House and that printed notifications of said Adjournment be issued.

The Town met according to adjournment at Rev^d. Samuel Coopers Meeting House June 17—1761 . . . 3 °Clock P.M:

The Committee appointed the 10 Instant to consider what may be proper to be done relative to the Town Watch — Report, That the wages of the watchmen be rais'd from twenty four shillings to thirty shillings, by the month. That four suitable men be appointed by the selectmen for the time being to each of the watch houses by the old north meeting house; at the head of the Town Dock; by the Town house [493.] And at the South End. That two men be also appointed by the selectmen as aforesaid to watch in dock square, somewhere southward of the swing bridge, principally to take care of the Warehouses, where so large a part of the interest of the inhabitants is lodged. That one of each of the four first mentioned watches, be appointed by the said selectmen, the head or constable of the Watch and be obliged at least once each week, and oftner if required to give an account to the Selectmen of their doings, and how they find the state of the town, and for that end that said head or constable keep a Journal of their doings and what they meet with in each night, and that as an encouragement each of said head, or constables, be paid three pounds by the month.

The Committee also apprehend that a considerable penalty corporal or pecuniary be annexed or inflicted as a punishment on such as shall wound abuse or resist the watch.

The Committee further Report their apprehension on that the only method to make this provision effectual, will be, that the town petition for liberty to bring in a bill to the great and general court to ratify and establish it. And as it has been suggested that some of the watch after great abuse and disorders done and committed by evil minded persons against & before the said watch and when they the said watch have complained to the civil authority concerning the same, yet upon application to said watch and money given them by the offenders, the said watch have absconded and refused to give evidence or prosecute their complaint, the committee would therefore submit it, whether some clause should not be brought into the bill prohibiting such compositions, under a penalty to the watch or at least to him or them immediately concerned, without the approbation of the selectmen first had and obtained —

The above Report having been several times read, it was Voted, that the same be accepted: It was also further Voted [494.] That Samuel Wells Esq. M^r. William Story, Thomas Green Esq. John Ruddock Esq. M^r. William Cooper, Joseph Jackson & Joshua Henshaw Esq. be and hereby are appointed a Committee to prefer a petition to the great and general court at their present session humbly praying liberty to bring in a bill to direct and empower the town to provide more effectually for their safety in the night.

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at the Town House on Monday the 24th Day of August Anno Domini 1761.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting read.

The Town proceeded to the choice of a Moderator by a Hand Vote, and John Phillips Esq. was unanimously chosen Moderator and took his seat accordingly.

The Committee first chosen in 1757. to apply to the General Court relative to our heavy taxes Reported — That your Committee first appointed the 14 Day of March Anno Domini 1757 — and continued with diverse alterations to this day to make application from time to time to the General Court relating to our heavy taxes esteem it their duty to inform the town of their doings, and of the present state of their solisitations. The Committee aforesaid have preferr'd diverse petitions to the court relating to this matter; have [495.] Frequently attended committees of the house appointed to hear & consider them, and have back'd these publick petitions with the most assiduous solisitations to the Gentlemen concerned.

They have the satisfaction to inform the town, that their labours have not been all fruitless, the court have granted four years ago a loan of £3500 — not to be demanded back, if we should by the next valuation appear to be over taxed, and also in the year 1758. the house took off the sum of £950 — from the tax of Boston. Besides this as your committee constantly petitioned that a valuation might be taken of the province, their petitions occasioned the passing sundry bills for that purpose, tho' unhappily, they were suspended by after resolves.

At length in January last as is well known, an act passed for taking such a valuation which went into effect: And while that matter was under consideration of the house, your committee had diverse meetings, and composed and sign'd one petition to the hon^{ble}. house which they left to the discretion of our representatives to offer or not as they should Judge expedient for the benefit of the Town. Our representatives of whoes assiduity attention and application to the business we can bear the most ample testimony thought it most expedient not to offer that petition.

At last the house after many debates and votes fixed our proportion of the publick tax to be £112., 18., 6 in the thousand; this gave occasion to a new application of your committee which we shall now explain and relate —

The latter end of the Year 1755, the general court passed a resolve to this purpose, that each towns proportion of the tax for the Year 1756 and every other year till a valuation taken should be finally adjusted and settled by the next valuation.

This resolve has been cited in almost all the petitions we preferred, and as we constantly presumed that this towns proportion was greatly too high, we intimated that we expected a large sum [496.] Would appear due to us. When therefore the house had settled our proportion as last mentioned, your committee preferred a petition to the court, humbly claiming the sum that

appeared due to us by comparing this proportion with our taxes the year 1756 — and every year since, copy of which we shall lay before the town. —

This petition is now depending being referred to the next session although (as your committee are informed) some doubt was made in the house of our power to prefer such a petition. This is the present state of that affair which we conceived it our duty to lay before the town, as it is particularly interesting to them, and at the same time recommend to them, that they would choose and empower some suitable persons to carry on this petition, and to release for some proper equivalent this demand of the towns, if it shall then be Judged most expedient for our interest.

The above Report having been several times read it was unanimously Voted, that the thanks of the town be and hereby are given to the said committee for their great care and assiduity in pursuing the interest of the town, in their several applications to the general court relative to our heavy taxes.

Voted, that Joshua Winslow Esq. be and hereby is appointed one of the Committee for making application to the general court with respect to our heavy taxes, in the room of Ebenezer Storer Esq. deceased.

Voted, that John Phillips Esq. be and hereby is added to the above Committee.

Voted, that the Committee aforesaid be and hereby are fully empower'd to make application to the general court at their next or any future session, relating to the petition preferred by them as mentioned in their report as also the demand this town has for [497.] Taxes paid more than their due proportion the year 1756 and since; and that the said Committee be further empower'd on behalf of the town to accept of such satisfaction for the demand aforesaid, as they shall Judge equally advantages to the town.

The Petition of a number of the inhabitants relative to filling up the Dock, directed to the selectmen, and by them laid before the town, was read, and is as follows — viz^t. —

To the Gentlemen the Selectmen of Boston

It having been Judged for some years past to be very necessary and convenient, that the dock on the north side of Faneuil Hall Market should be filled up, application has been several times made to the town for doing the same, and in march last a committee was appointed to confer with the abutters concerning it, who accordingly so did and reported the same to the town & how far the abutters had agreed said dock should be filled up, which the town accepted and voted that said dock should be filled up, so far as was mentioned in the report, and desired the selectmen to cause the same to be done accordingly, and the selectmen are now doing it. Now Gentlemen we are informed that it was the opinion of said committee when they view'd said dock, and considered the great advantages that would arise to the town, that it would be best that the whole thereof should be filled up, though they could not at that time prevail upon the abutters to consent to the same, but as many of the inhabitants of the town seem to be sensible that it must be of great service and benefit and as they apprehend

no disadvantage to said proprietors, and may be now easily done, we therefore desire gentlemen, you would as soon as may be convene the inhabitants to take this matter into consideration, and give such orders for filling up the dock, as may be Judged proper and necessary, allowing said abutters, what may be supposed to be an adequate consideration [498.] For any inconvenience it may be to them, we are, &c. —

Considerable debate being had on the above proposal and request, the Question was put, whether the prayer of the Petition should be granted — passed in the negative —

The Petition of Mess^{rs}. Bradford and Williams relative to a Fish House, was read, and after some debate the Question was put, whether the Prayer of the Petition should be granted — passed in the negative —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to John Phillips Esq. Moderator of this Meeting for transacting and dispatching the Business of it —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[499.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and Warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at the Town House on Monday the 8th. Day of March Anno Domini 1762. —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. D^r. Chauncey.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting read.

Sundry Laws enjoined to be read at this Meeting were accordingly read.

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting and took the oath respecting his receiving and paying Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, as required by the Act of the Province; and the Meeting Adjourn'd to the Rev^d. D^r. Chaunceys Meeting House —

William Cooper was unanimously chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, and having taken the Oath relating to his receiving & paying Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty, which were administered him by John Phillips Esq.

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted it appeared that

Thomas Cushing Esq.

Samuel Hews Esq.

John Scollay Esq.

Benjamin Austin Esq.

M^r. Samuel Sewall

M^r. Samuel Phillips Savage

[500.]

Ezekiel Lewis Esq.

were chose Selectmen for the ensuing Year, and took the Oath requir'd by Law relating their receiving and paying Bills of Credit of the Neighbouring Governments —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

John Phillips Esq.
 M^r. Isaac Walker
 John Barrot Esq.
 Royal Tyler Esq.
 Joseph Gardner Esq.
 William Phillips Esq.
 M^r. Benjamin Dolbear
 M^r. Isaac Smith
 Meletiah Bourn Esq.
 Samuel Dexter Esq.
 M^r. Jonathan Mason
 M^r. Henry Bromfield

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing.

The Votes were brought in for a Town Treasurer, and upon sorting them it appear'd that M^r. David Jeffries was unanimously chosen, and having taken the Oath relating to his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Neighbouring Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty, which were adminstred him by John Phillips Esq.

The Town brought in their Votes for a County Treasurer, which were received and sealed up by Constable Thayer, to be by him kept and returned to the next Court of General Sessions of the Peace to be held for this County.

[501.] The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Wardens and upon sorting them it appeared that——

Samuel Grant Esq.
 Richard Clark Esq.
 M^r. John Tudor
 M^r. Isaac Smith
 M^r. David Jeffries
 M^r. Jonathan Mason
 M^r. Henry Bromfield
 M^r. Samuel Austin
 M^r. William Greenleaf
 M^r. Samuel Adams
 M^r. Powers Meriot
 M^r. Henderson Inches

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing.

Upon a motion made and seconded — the question was put — Whether Collectors of Taxes shall be chose sepperate from Constables . . . passed in the Affirmative ——

Voted, that any Person chosen into the Office of a Constable for the Year ensuing, may be excused from serving, on his paying the Sum of Four Pounds ——

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Constables, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Thayer
 Francis Salmon
 John Rogers
 James Thomas
 John Wells
 Elisha Byles

[502.]

William Darrington
 Stephen Symms
 Joseph Shed
 Eliphalet Parker
 Augustus Hale
 Andrew Richie (Excused.)

were chose for the Year ensuing.

A Motion made and seconded that a Committee be appointed to prepare a Petition to be laid before the General Court, at their next Session, relative to the pernicious practice of forestalling the Market, after debate had thereon it was Voted, that

Samuel Wells Esq.
 Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
 James Otis Esq.
 Thomas Green Esq.
 M^r. Oxenbridge Thacher

be and hereby are appointed a Committee for that purpose.

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant. viz^t. — “That the Town will take such methods, as shall be Judged necessary for the Incorporation of it” the question was put; Whether the Town would take any such steps — Passed in the Negative almost unanimously.

Voted, that the Sum of Nine Pence on the Pound, be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing. for all such Sums as they shall Collect, provided they pay into the Town Treasury one half part of the whole Sum they are obliged to pay him, within four months from the time they receive the Tax Books from the Assessors, and the other half part in three Months after, and also pay into the Province and [503.] County Treasuries one half part of the whole Sum they shall be obliged to pay them respectively in Seven Months from the time they shall receive the Tax Books from the Assessors as aforesaid, and the other half part in five Months after; and in case any of said Collectors shall fail paying in the manner aforesaid the Collector so failing shall not be entitled to the aforesaid allowance of Nine Pence on the Pound, but wholly forfeit the same, provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen, for the faithful discharge of their duty in said Office, and complying with this Vote,

Upon a Motion made and seconded that the Sense of the Town should be taken upon the following Question — Viz^t. — Whether the Selectmen shall be allowed a discretionary power as to the payment of the Premium to the Town Collectors, for the Collecting of Taxes in Years past, any former Vote to the contrary notwithstanding — Passed in the Affirmative —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared —

that,
 John Ruddock Esq.
 M^r. Jonathan Payson
 M^r. John Grant
 M^r. Samuel Adams

were chose into that Office.

Voted, that the Selectmen shall have a discretionary power as to the payment of the Collectors premiums for the ensuing Year, any former Vote notwithstanding. —

Voted, that such of the Inhabitants as shall advance [503.] Moneys to the Town for the use of the Alms-house on or before the 15th of April next, be and hereby are allowed after the rate of Six per Cent upon such Sums as they shall so advance, said Moneys to be paid by the Collectors to the Overseers of the Poor, to be by them laid out in Provisions, Grain, and other Necessaries for the use aforesaid: And the Collectors are hereby Ordered and Impowered to discount those Sums together with the allowance thereon out of the said Gentlemans respective Taxes for the Year 1762.

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mess^{rs}. William Fairfield
John Kneeland
Samuel Edwards
Benjamin Church
Joseph Bradford
William Torrey
Jonathan Brown

were chose into that Office. —

It being suggested by James Otis Esq. one of the Town Representatives that in all probability the next Session of the General Court would be very short, the Town therefore Judged it prudent that the aforesaid Committee should defer laying the proposed Petition before the General Court to some future time, and therefore Voted, that the said Committee be and hereby are desired to Report said Petition to the Town at the next May Meeting —

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “ Whether a Committee shall be appointed to audit the Accounts of the Managers of the Lotteries granted by the General Court for paying the Neck — The Question was accordingly put — [504.] Passed in the Negative —

That Clause in the Warrant relative to Repairing the High Way within the Fortification being considered It was Voted, that the further consideration thereof be referr’d to May Meeting, when the Selectmen are desired to lay before the Town such Papers as relate to said business —

Voted, that the choice of Collectors for Taxes be referr’d to 4 o’Clock. P: M: —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Fire-Wards, and upon sorting them it appear’d that

Joseph Jackson Esq.
John Scollay Esq.
Royal Tyler Esq.
Newman Grenough Esq.
Cap^t Solomon Davis
M^r. William Cooper
M^r. Joseph Jackson
John Rowe Esq.

Mr. John Mico Wendell
 Mr. Henderson Inches
 Thomas Marshall Esq.
 Mr. Samuel Austin

were chose for the Year ensuing —

Voted unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to John Phillips Esq. for his faithful services as a Fireward many Years past —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 °Clock [505.]

P: M: to meet at the Town House —

3 °Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Clerks of the Market, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Mess^{rs}. Christopher Clarke
 William Fallas
 Cornelius Thayer
 Henry Hill
 Daniel Parker
 Peter Boyer
 Edward Green
 Benjamin Henderson
 Samuel Fletcher
 John Gill
 William Fisher
 Thomas Fleet

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.

The Town brought in their Votes for Six Fence Viewers, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Mess^{rs}. Caleb Ray
 Thomas Crafts
 Story Dawes
 William Moore
 Benjamin Eustis
 Onesip. Tyleston Esq.

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing.

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Surveyors of Boards, and upon sorting them it appear'd that —

[506.] Mess^{rs}. William Nichols
 Isaac Vergoose
 Robert Ford
 Henry Allen
 Jacob Thayer
 Clement Collins
 Andrew Symms
 John Grenough
 Caleb Ray
 John Langley
 Samuel May
 Nathaniel Wales

were chose Surveyors of Boards for the Year ensuing.

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Scavengers, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Mess^{rs}. Samuel Sollien
 Thomas Hayes
 Benjamin Hodgden
 Jonathan Lee
 Joseph Calf
 William Lowder
 After Stoddard
 Edward Carnes
 William Suttan
 David Mason
 Edward Hollyday
 Joshua Blanchard

were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing —

The Town brought in their Votes for ten Cullers of Staves, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

[507.] Mess^{rs}. David Spear
 Samuel Barnard
 Joshua Pico
 Samuel Treat
 Peter Cotta
 John Harskins
 Joseph Dyer
 Jonathan Jenkins
 Job Wheelwright
 Benjamin Salt

were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing.

M^r. John Gray . . . was chosen Surveyer of Hemp.

Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner
 Joseph Belknap

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing.

M^r. Edward Curtis

was chosen Hayward for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Martin Gay
 David Cutler

were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that no Tanner, Shoemaker or Currier shall be chose as Sealers of Leather.

Mess^{rs}. Adino Paddock
 Isaac Casneau
 Isaac Hawes
 Cornelius Thayer

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing.

[508.] The Selectmen

were chose Surveyers of the High Way for the Year ensuing.

The Town brought in their Votes for four Hogreeves, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Mess^{rs}. William Scott
 Samuel Dunkerfield
 Nathaniel Butt
 Nathaniel Bird

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing

Joseph Jackson Esq. John Scollay Esq. and M^r. Timothy Newell

were chose purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing and they are desired and impowered to give all needful directions to the Keeper of the Granary, respecting the quantitys of Grain to be sold, and affixing the price thereof from time to time, as occasion shall require. —

Voted, that the Assessors be and are hereby impowered and directed to set for the abatement of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable, on every Thursday till the first Thursday in April inclusive, and no longer, saving that they be allow'd to set the two last Weeks in November, for the abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an opportunity of applying in the above limited time, by reason of their being out of the Province, at which time they are also allowed and impower'd to abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent or become Bankrupts, between the said last Thursday in April, and the last Day of November.

Voted, that the Selectmen with such Persons as they shall think proper to invite, be a Committee to visit the Schools —

[509.] Voted, that the Selectmen be and are hereby desired to look into the Law relating Hogs, and to prepare a new By Law, to be laid before the Town next May Meeting, as also any other By-Laws that may be thought necessary —

Voted, that the Sum of twelve Pence on the Pound, be and hereby is allowed the Collectors of Taxas for Collecting the new Tax on Streets —

Voted, that the Bells at the Old North, Old Brick and Mr. Byles's Meeting Houses be rang at 5^o. Clock in the Morning.

Voted, that the consideration of Schoolmaster's Salarys and all other Salarys and Grants, be referred to next May Meeting —

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to act upon the list of Jurors —

Voted, that John Rowe Esq.

Mr. Thomas Gray

William Story Esq.

Mr. Jonathan Williams

John Leaveret Esq.

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Accounts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are enjoined to inspect every particular Account of the Monys expended for the use of the Alms house; they are also impowered when they shall Audit said Accounts, to allow such of the Overseers as shall advance Monys for the relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums, from the time so advanced, untill they shall have Audited said Accompts —

[510.] The Committee appointed the 10 of March last to. Audit the Accounts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, Report, that they have attended that service and find the same right cast and well vouch'd in which he charges himself with sundry Fines, Rents and other Incomes of the Town, as also with the Tax of £6000,, —, — all which amount including the Balance of Old Account to £665^s. 13, 11^d

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry abate-

ments made the Collectors; by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3730., 3., 6½ of which he has paid £2558., 10., 7, and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the Charges of the Almshouse amounting to £2104., 5., 6¼ of which he has paid £911., 5., 10½ amounting in all to £8176., 6., 1¼ —

The said Committee have inspected the said Drafts, in a very particular manner, and have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers for the amount of their Drafts, and every other branch of publick Charge all amounting as above to the Sum of £8176., 6., 1¼ as by Account of Town Treasury in the Town Treasurers Books balance whereof being £1523., 12., 2 is carried to the Dr. of new Account; which Report and Account being read — Voted, that the same be and hereby is accepted —

The Selectmen Report on the Account of M^r. John Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, as entred in his Book (and on File in the Town Clerks Office) Read, and Voted, that the same be accepted, and that M^r. Fenno be accountable to the Town for Two hundred and twelve bushels Corn remaining unsold amounting to £33., 18., 4¾ and also for the Sum of £433., 14., 8¼ Cash now in his hands exclusive of the Sum of £26., 13., 4 for his Salary and assistance as charged in his Account which is hereby allowed him. —

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant, Viz^t. [511.] That a Committee be appointed to enquire what has been the occasion of the heavy Expences of the Town for several Years past, and what steps are necessary to be taken to reduce the same. — The Question was put whether the Town would appoint such a Committee — passed in the negative.

Voted, that all Matters and Things which shall remain unfinished at this Meeting, be and hereby are referred over to the General Town Meeting In May next, to be then considered of and acted upon —

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honourable Thomas Hubbard Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[512.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders, and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally Qualified and Warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at the Town House on Tuesday the 11th Day of May Anno Domini 1762 —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d M^r Pemberton —

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting-Read.

Sundry Laws - - Read.

Thomas Cushing Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at Boston upon Wednesday the 26 Day of May Currant; and in order thereto to consider and ascer-

tain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected accordingly it was Voted, to proceed to the choice of Four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen, that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 o'Clock.

The Votes being brought in the number of Voters were found to be Six hundred twenty nine, and upon sorting them it appear'd that the four following Gentlemen were chose — Viz' —

Royal Tyler Esq.	-	-	-	-	609 Votes
John Phillips Esq.	-	-	-	-	613
James Otis Esq.	-	-	-	-	619
Thomas Cushing	-	-	-	-	460

The choice of Representatives being over and declared [513.] By the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other affairs mentioned in the Warrant; accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appear'd that the Honourable Thomas Hubbard Esq. was chosen. —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants for Paving Long Lane was read, whereupon it was Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds lawful Money be and hereby is granted the Petitioners upon condition that they Pave said Street in the manner proposed, to the approbation of the Selectmen. —

The Petition of a number of the Masters of the Town Schools, setting forth, that they meet with great difficultys in obtaining payment of the severall Salaries which the Town has been pleased to assign them — that notwithstanding a Vote formerly passed for their payment Quarterly, they having been to their great distress kept out of their pay from Year to Year, and for what they do receive at any time they are obliged to the friendship of particular Gentlemen, who by the kind permission of the Collectors, are willing to pay their Taxes into their hands, that your Petitioners have some of them nine some twelve and some eighteen Months Salary due to them — that they are informed that the greatest part of the Taxes belonging to the Town is already paid in or engaged to others, so that they have no prospect of any further payment till the new Taxes are issued, which tis probable will not be done till some time in the next Winter — that this delay of payment obliges them to purchase the necessarys of life at a disadvantage [514.] Upon long Credit, or to become troublesome to their friends by borrowing Money for their Supplies, not to mention the continual sollicitude and anxiety which such dependant circumstances necessarily create. — The same being read, and duly considered, it appear'd to the Town that the most likely method to answer the end proposed by the Petitioners must be the raising or borrowing a sum of Money sufficient to defrey the common and extraordinary charges of the Year; it was therefore

Voted, that the sum of Eight Thousand Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for relief of the Poor, and defreying other necessary Charges, arising within the Town the ensuing Year —

A Motion made and seconded, that the Sense of the Town should be taken upon the following Question — Viz^t. — Whether the Town has a right to determine at this Meeting, upon any new method for the more speedy Collecting of the Moneys voted to be raised for defraying the necessary Expences, and Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year — the Question being accordingly put — passed in y^e Affermative —

A Motion being made and seconded, the Question was put — Whether the Town Tax should be made out by the Assessors sepperate from the Province Tax — Passed in y^e Negative

Voted, that the Assessors be directed, that as soon as possible after they receive the Warrant for the County & Province Tax, they make out the Assesment, for raising the same together with the Town Tax. —

[515.] Voted, that M^r. David Jeffries Treasurer of the Town be and he hereby is directed and fully Impower'd to borrow upon Interest of any Person or Persons, a Sum not exceeding Fifteen hundred Pounds lawful Mony, for the payment of the School-Masters Salarys now due; the Wages of the Watch, as also what may be owing to the Master of the Alms house; the Money so borrowed to be repaid in twelve Months out of the £8000. — now Voted to be raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town, and give his Bonds or Notes as Security for the payment of the same with the Interest thereof, which Obligations the Town do hereby promise and engage to discharge as the same shall become due

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be, and he hereby is directed and Impowered to allow the several School-masters Interest on the Sums due to them from the date of their Warrants to the time of payment. —

Voted, that M^r. David Jeffries Treasurer of y^e. Town be and he hereby is directed and Impowered to borrow upon Interest a Sum not exceeding Nine hundred Pounds, upon the terms and conditions exprest in the aforegoing Vote for borrowing of £1500 — which Sum of Nine hundred Pounds is to be paid unto the Overseers of the Poor for the present supply and Relief of the Alms House —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for an Overseer of the Poor, in the room of M^r. Isaac Walker lately deceased, and upon sorting them it appeared that

M^r. William Whitwell

was chosen into that Office for the Year ensuing.

[516.] The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Two Assessors in the room of M^r. Samuel Edwards deceased, and M^r. Joseph Bradford who has resign'd, and upon sorting them it appeared that,

Belcher Noyes Esq.

M^r. Samuel Downe

were chose into that Office for the Year ensuing —

The Town made choice of M^r. Samuel M^c.Clure for a Constable in the room of M^r. Andrew Richie who was excused from serving for reasons by him offered. —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and paid

unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter. —

Voted, that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allow'd and paid unto M^r. Peleg Wiswall for his Salary as Master of the North Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter. —

Voted, that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allow'd and paid unto M^r. Samuel Holyoke for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the ensuing Year the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

[517.] Voted. that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Procter for his Salary as a Master of the Writing School in Queen Street, the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and paid unto M^r. Abia Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common, for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds, be allow'd and paid unto M^r. John Tileston for his Salary as Master of the North Writing School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allow'd and paid unto M^r. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him Quarterly, as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Ephraim Langdon, for his Salary as Usher of the North Writing School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter. —

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed [518.] And paid unto M^r. John Vinal for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in the Common the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Tileston Master of the North Writing School, for providing an Assistant the Year ensuing the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of last Quarter. —

The Petition of M^r. John Vinal, Usher of the South Writing School, praying that a further allowance may be made him, was taken into consideration, whereupon — Voted, that the Sum of

Thirty Pounds lawful Mony be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto Mr. John Vinal as a full consideration and recompence for his extraordinary services in times past —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and paid out of the Town Treasury unto Mr. David Jeffries for his services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office.

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant - - Viz^t. " Whether the Town will take any Measures for Rebuilding the Fortification Gates " —

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to Enlarge Repair, or Rebuild said Gates as may appear to them most convenient and advantageous for the Town —

The Committee appointed the 8th of March last [519.] To draft a Petition to the General Court, relative to the pernicious practise of Forestalling the Market, and to lay the same before the Town at this Meeting, being prevented doing it by reason of the sickness of their Chairman — It was Voted that the said Committee Viz^t.

Samuel Wells Esq.

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

Jamis Otis Esq.

Thomas Green Esq.

Oxenbridge Thacher Esq.

be and hereby are desired and impower'd to prepare such a Petition, and present the same to the General Court at their next Session.

The Selectmen appointed a Committee the 8th of March last, to prepare a By-Law relative to Hogs ; Reported the following Draft. Viz^t. —

It is Voted and Ordered

That no Hog or Swine shall be suffered to go at large within the Bounds of the Town of Boston, saving in and upon the Land or inclosed Ground of or in possession of the Owner or keeper of such Swine (except also such Swine that are driving to Market) on pain that such Owner or Keeper of such Hog or Swine shall forfeit and pay the Sum of ten Shillings for every Hog or Swine that shall be found going at large contrary to this Order, or the full value thereof if not exceeding ten Shillings ; one half to him or them that shall seize and secure the same, the other half to the Poor of this Town. Further it is hereby provided, that if it appear that the Owner or Keeper of such Hog or Swine be actually in pursuit of it or them, at and before the Seizure, then such Owner or Keeper shall have his Hog or Swine released to him by such Persons who by virtue of this Order had secured and seized the [520.] Same, he paying to such Seizer, Two Shillings, for every Hog so seized by him ; and it shall and may be lawful for such Person or Persons that are chosen to the Office of Hogrewes for the time being, or in their absence for any of the Inhabitants of this Town, to seize secure or Impound any Hog or Swine going at large contrary to this Order, and upon his or their so doing shall make application to one of his Majesties Justices of the

Peace within this Town to Order an Appraisement Award and give Judgment according to the true intent and meaning of this Order

Voted, that the foregoing By-Law and Order of the Town be presented to the Court of General Sessions of the Peace to be held at Boston within and for the County of Suffolk, for their Allowance and Approbation

The Selectmen presented the following Draft of a By Law relative to Wood brought to Market in Carts, and Sleds - - Viz^t.

Whereas the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston are greatly imposed upon with respect to the Admeasurement of Wood and Bark brought to Market in Carts and Sleds, and there by great fraud and deceit is too often practised, for preventing the same —

It is therefore Voted and Ordered

That from and after the tenth Day of September next ensuing, all Wood and Bark as they come in to Town shall be measured, and a Certificate of the Measure thereof shall be given to the Owner or Driver of the Cart or Sled —

It is further Ordered — That a suitable Person or Persons be from time to time appointed by the Selectmen as they shall think fit to Measure all such Wood and Bark brought in [521.] Carts or Sleds, and the said Person or Persons shall be under Oath to do Justice between Buyer and Seller, and shall attend from Sun-rising to Sunsetting, and shall make an entry of all the Wood and Bark they measure —

And it is further Ordered, that there be allowed to the said Persons for every load of Wood or Bark so measured Two Pence, to be paid by the Person who buys the same, or in case of his absence at the time of measuring then to be paid by the Owner or Driver of the Cart or Sled, who shall be reimbursed by the Buyer —

It is further Ordered, That after the tenth Day of September next, if any Person or Inhabitant of the Town of Boston aforesaid, that buy any Wood or Bark thus brought to Market, without the same be first measured as above, he she or they shall forfeit and pay the Sum of three Shillings for every load so bought,

Voted, that the foregoing By Law and Order of the Town be presented to the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, to be held at Boston within and for the County of Suffolk, for their allowance and approbation —

The Report of the Selectmen on the Visitation of the Publick Schools, Read, and is as follows, Viz^t. —

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 11th. 1762.

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their Annual Meeting the 10th of March 1761, desiring the Selectmen to visit the several Publick Schools in the Town, and to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein [522.] As they should think proper, and to Report thereon

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that service on Wednes-

day the first Day of July last, accompanied by the following Gentlemen - - - - - Viz^t. —

His Excell. " the Governor
 The Hon^{ble}. Samuel Wells Esq.
 The Hon^{ble}. Andrew Oliver Esq.
 The Hon^{ble}. James Bowdoin Esq.
 The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hancock Esq.
 The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq.
 The Representatives of the Town
 The Overseers of the Poor —
 Joshua Winslow Esq.
 Joshua Henshaw Esq.
 Joseph Jackson Esq.
 Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
 Samuel Wentworth Esq.
 Richard Dana Esq.
 Belcher Noyes Esq.
 John Avery Esq.
 William Tyler Esq.
 Rev^d. M^r. Hooper
 M^r. David Jeffries
 M^r. William Winter
 D^r. John Sprague
 M^r. Oxenbridge Thacher
 M^r. John Box
 M^r. James Perkins
 Cap^t. Benjamin Hammatt
 M^r. Alexander Hill
 Rev^d. Alexander Cummings
 Rev^d. Samuel Checkley Esq.
 Rev^d. Samuel Cooper
 Rev^d. Andrew Elliot
 Rev^d. Ebenezer Pemberton
 D^r. Charles Chancey
 D^r. Joseph Sewall

[523.]

And found the South Grammar School had 117 Scholars, the North Grammar School 57 Scholars, the South Writing School 234 Scholars, the North Writing School 157 Scholars, the Writing School in Queen Street 249 Scholars all in very good order —

THOMAS CUSHING	}	Selectmen of Boston.
SAMUEL HEWS		
JOHN SCOLLAY		
BENJAMIN AUSTIN		
SAMUEL SEWALL		
SAM: PHILL: SAVAGE		
EZEKIEL LEWIS		

Voted, that this Report be accepted, and that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to visit the Publick Schools the Year ensuing, and that they desire such Gentlemen to accompany them as they shall think convenient, and that they Report thereon. —

The Selectmen having agreeable to order, laid before the Town

the several Papers relative to the High Way within the Fortification, and the same being considered it was thereon —

Voted, that the Repairing or Paving said Way be referred to the Gentlemen Selectmen, who are hereby desir'd and empowered to act therein as they shall Judge proper.

[524.] Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honourable Thomas Hubbard Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for transacting and dispatching the Business thereof. —

— Then the Meeting was dissolved. —

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 14th. Day of March Anno Domini 1763 —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Mr. Mather —

The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read —

Sundry Laws enjoind to be read at this Meeting, were accordingly read.

James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire & Rhode Island, as required by the Act of the Province —

William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, and having taken the Oath relating to his receiving [525.] And paying Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty, which Oaths were administred to him by Foster Hutchinson Esq.

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted it appeared, that —

Thomas Cushing
 Samuel Hews
 John Scollay
 Benjamin Austin
 Samuel Sewall
 Ezekiel Lewis
 Nathaniel Thwing, Esq.

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, it was Unanimously Voteu, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Mr. Samuel Philips Savage for his faithful services as Selectman sometime past

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appeared that —

John Phillips Esq. - - - - - excused
 John Barratt Esq.
 Royal Tyler Esq.
 Joseph Gardner Esq.
 William Phillips Esq. - - - - - excused
 Mr. Benjamin Dolbear

Isaac Smith Esq.
 Melatiah Bourn Esq.
 M^r. Jonathan Mason
 M^r. Henry Bromfield
 M^r. William Whitwell
 M^r. Henderson Inches

[526.] were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing: John Phillips & William Phillips Esq: desired to be excused, the other Gentlemen accepted and took the Oaths required by Law —

Voted, Unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to John Phillips, and William Phillips Esq. for their faithful services as Overseers of the Poor for some Years past —

The Town brought in their Votes for two Overseers in the room of the above named Gentlemen who had declined serving and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Cap^t. Benjamin Hammatt
 M^r. Ebenezer Storer

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing —

The Votes were brought in for a Town Treasurer and upon sorting them it appear'd, that M^r. David Jeffries was unanimously chosen and having taken the Oath relating to his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithfull discharge of his duty, which Oaths were administered him by Foster Hutchinson Esq

Upon a Motion made and seconded the Question was put, whether Collectors of Taxes shall be chose seperate from Constables — passed in the Affirmative —

A Motion made and seconded that the Town should choose but Six of the old Constables for the present Year — passed in y^e. affirmative —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them it appear'd, that

[527.] Nathaniel Thwing Esq.
 M^r. Thomas Gray
 Samuel Sewall Esq.
 M^r. Joseph Edwards
 M^r. Ebenezer Storer
 Cap^t. Benjamin Hammatt
 M^r. Thomas Grenough
 M^r. John Mico Wendell
 M^r. Robert Peirpoint
 M^r. Daniel Waldo
 M^r. John Pigeon
 M^r. Samuel Demming

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that any Person chosen into the Office of a Constable for the Year ensuing may be excused from serving, on his paying the Sum of twenty Shillings —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Constables, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Mess ^{rs} . Nathaniel Thayer	- - - - -	Sworn
Augustus Hale	- - - - -	d ^o .
Elisha Byles	- - - - -	d ^o .
James Thomas	- - - - -	d ^o .
Francis Salmon	- - - - -	d ^o .
Abijah Savage	- - - - -	paid his fine
William Tyler Kilbey	- - - - -	d ^o .
Andrew Boardman	- - - - -	d ^o .
John Kinney	- - - - -	Sworn
John Wells	- - - - -	d ^o .
William Darrington	- - - - -	d ^o .
Samuel M ^c .Clure	- - - - -	declined

[528.] John Cogswell
 John Rogers
 Isaac Bird

were chose Constables for the Year ensuing.

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 clock P.M.

3 O'Clock P: M. Met according to Adjournment —

Voted, that the Sum of Nine Pence on the Pound be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall Collect, provided they pay into the Town Treasury one half part of the whole Sum they are obliged to pay him, within four Months from the time they receive the Tax Books from the Assessors, and the other half part in three Months after, and also pay into the Province and County Treasuries one half part of the whole Sum they shall be obliged to pay them respectfully in Seven Months from the Time they shall receive the Tax Books from the Assessors as aforesaid, and the other half part in five Months after; and in case either of said Collectors shall fail paying in the manner aforesaid, the Collector so failing shall not be entitled to the aforesaid allowance of Nine Pence on the Pound but wholly forfeit the same; provided also that such of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen, for the faithful discharge of their duty in said Office, and complying with this Vote.

Voted, That the Selectmen shall have a discretionary power as to the Payment of the Collectors Premiums for the Year ensuing, any former Vote notwithstanding —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes, for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that

[529.] John Ruddock Esq.
 Jonathan Payson Esq.
 M^r. John Grant
 M^r. Samuel Adams

were chose into that Office.

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, and upon sorting them it appeared that —

Mess^{rs}. William Fairfield
 John Kneeland
 Benjamin Church
 Joseph Bradford
 Jonathan Brown

Samuel Downe
Belcher Noyes Esq

were chose into that Office. —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Clerks of the Market, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

William Holmes Esq

M^r. John Forsyth

Benjamin Edes

M^r. Joseph Belknap

M^r. Josiah Waters

M^r. John Welch

M^r. Samuel Barrett

M^r. Daniel Boyer - - - (declin'd serving)

M^r. William Boardman

M^r. Thomas Walley

M^r. Samuel Whitwell

M^r. John Cunningham - - (declin'd serving)

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.

[530.] M^r. John Gray, was chosen a Surveyor of Hemp.

Mess^{rs}. Stephen Wales

Story Daws

William Crafts

Benjamin Andrews

Thomas Bayley

Benjamin Curtis

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing. —

Mess^{rs}. William Nichols

Clement Collins

Isaac Vergoose

John Skillins

John Grenough

Andrew Symms

Nathaniel Wales

Jacob Thayer

Richard Walker

Henry Allyne

William Payne

James Clarke

John Langley

were chose Surveyors of Boards and Shingles for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made and Seconded, Voted that the Fence Viewers be obliged to take the Oaths for a faithful discharge of their duty.

Mess^{rs}. Cornelius Thayer

Joseph Clarke

Adino Paddock

Isaac Hews

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing.

[531.] Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner

Samuel Whitwell

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Peter Cotta
 Manasseh Masters
 Joseph Dyer
 John Harskins
 David Spear
 Nathan Spear
 Jonathan Jenkins
 Samuel Treat
 Robert Breck Jun^r.
 Job Wheelwright
 Joshua Pico
 Benjamin Salt
 Paul Baxter
 John Owen
 Thomas Knox
 Samuel White

were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. David Simms

John Bacon

were chosen Hogrewes for the Year ensuing. —

Mr. Edward Curtis

was chosen Hayward for the Year ensuing. —

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Firewards, and upon sorting them it appeared that

[532.]

Joseph Jackson Esq.

John Scollay Esq.

Royal Tyler Esq.

Newman Grenough Esq.

Cap^t. Solomon Davis

Mr. William Cooper

Mr. Samuel Austin

Mr. Joseph Jackson

John Rowe Esq.

Mr. John Mico Wendell

Mr. Henderson Inches

Thomas Marshall Esq.

were chosen Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing. —

Voted, That Application be made to the General Court by our Representatives, for liberty to choose four Fire-Wards, in addition to the number allowed by Law —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Scavengers and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mess^{rs}. John Brown

Thomas Hitchburne

Nathaniel Cobbit

Thomas Hase

Benjamin Hodgden

Gershom Tinney

Paul Farmer

Jeremiah Belknap

Edward Carnes

Joseph Mann

Samuel Emms

Joseph Elliot

were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing —

[533.] Voted, that John Rowe Esq.

Joseph Scott Esq.

Mr. Thomas Gray

Mr. Jonathan Williams

John Leverett Esq.

be and they hereby are Appointed a Committee to Audit the Accounts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are enjoined to inspect every particular Account of the Moneys expended for the use of the Almshouse; they are also impowered when they shall Audit said Accounts to allow such of the Overseers as shall Advance Moneys for the relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the Time so Advanced till they shall have Audited said Accountts.

The Selectmen

were chose Surveyors of the High Ways for the Year ensuing.

Thomas Green Esq.

Joseph Jackson Esq.

John Scollay Esq.

were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, and they are desired and impowered to give all needful directions to the Keeper of the Grainary respecting the quantities of Grain to be sold and affixing the price thereof from time to time, as occasion shall require.

Mess^{rs}. Martin Gay

David Cutler

were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing.

The Petition of a number of the Inhabitants praying that the Town would defrey the Charge of winding up and taking care of the Clock on the Rev^d. Mr. Byles's Meeting House, was read, and after [534.] Debate had thereon, the Question was put, "Whether the Prayer of the Petition should be granted — Passed in the Affermative.

Voted, That the Assessors be and are hereby impowered and directed to set for the abatement of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Thursday till the first Thursday in April inclusive, and no longer, saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November for the abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an opportunity of applying in the above limited time, by reason of their being out of the Province, at which time they are also allowed and impower'd to abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent or become Bankrupts between the said last Thursday in April and the last Day of November.

Voted, That the consideration of Schoolmasters Salarys, and all other Salarys and Grants, be referred to next May Meeting.

A Motion made and seconded, that a Committee be Appointed to examine the state of the Town Treasury, and enquire into the Expences of the Town and whether any savings can be made, as also to consider what Sum of Money it may be necessary to raise

in order to defrey the Charges of the Town the ensuing Year, and that they Report at the May Meeting, whereupon

Voted, That
 James Beautineau
 John Rowe
 Thomas Green
 Foster Hutchinson
 Thomas Flucker
 William Story Esqrs
 M^r. John Spooner
 Oxenbridge Thacher
 Nathaniel Bethune
 Thomas Hancock Esqrs.
 John Avery Esq.
 Joseph Green Esq.

[535.]

be and hereby are appointed a Committee for that purpose

Voted, That such of the Inhabitants as shall advance Moneys for the use of the Almshouse on or before the 15 of April next, be and hereby are allowed after the rate of 6 P C^t. upon such Sums as they shall so advance, said Moneys to be paid by the Collectors to the Overseers of the Poor, to be by them laid out in Provisions Grain, and other Necessarys for the use aforesaid; and the Collectors are hereby Ordered and empowered to discount those Sums together with the allowance thereon out of the said Gentleimens respective Taxes for the Year 1763.

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, That M^r. David Jeffries Treasurer of the Town of Boston be and hereby is directed and fully empower'd to borrow upon Interest of any Person or Persons a Sum of Money not exceeding Nine hundred Pounds, to be paid to the Overseers of the Poor for the present Supply and relief of the Almshouse, the Money so borrowed to be repaid in twelve Months out of the £8000 — Voted last May to be raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town, said Treasurer to give his Bonds or Notes as security for the payment of the same with lawful Interest which Obligations the Town do hereby promise and engage to discharge as the same shall become due.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, That James Beautineau Esq. and others a Committee to enquire into the Expences of the Town &c. be and hereby are desired to assist the Town Treasurer in borrowing the above Sum of Nine hundred Pounds. —

Voted, That this Meeting be Adjourned to 9 o'Clock y^e. next Morning.

Tuesday 9 o'Clock A. M: Met according to Adjournment.

[536.] Voted, That the Selectmen be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to act upon the List of Jurors —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, the Question was put — “Whether the Vote of Yesterday relative to new Constables shall be reconsidered — passed in the Negative.

The Selectmen Reported on the Account of M^r. John Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past which Account as entered in his Books (and on File in the Town Clerks Office) was read,

whereupon it was Voted that the same be accepted, and that Mr. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 135 Bushels of Corn, and 65 Bushels of Rye remaining unsold amounting to £44,, 6,, 8, and also for the sum of £366,, 17,, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$. Cash now in his hands, exclusive of the sum of Twenty six Pounds thirteen Shillings and four Pence for his Salary & assistance as charged in his Account, which is hereby allowed him. —

The Committee Appointed the 8th. of March last to Audit the Accounts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, Report, that they have Attended that service and find the same right cast and well vouched, in which he charges himself with sundry Fines Rents and other Incomes of the Town as also with the Tax £8000,, all of which amount to £9138,, 6 — And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abatements made the Collectors, by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3252,, 7,, 4. of which he has paid £2045,, 12,, 6, and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the Charges of the Almshouse amounting to £1881,, 0,, 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ of which he has paid £795,, 0,, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ the whole amounting to £7841,, 12,, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ including the Balance of Old Acco^{ts}.

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very particular manner, and have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers for the amount of their Drafts, and every other branch of Publick Charge, all amounting as above to the Sum of £7841,, 12,, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ as by Account of Town Treasury in the Town Treasurers Books [537.] Balance whereof being £1296,, 13,, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ is carried to the Credit of New Account.— Which Report and Account being read —

Voted, That the same be, and hereby is accepted. —

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant. (Viz.) “That the Town would determine upon some effectual method to prevent the pernicious practise of forestalling the Market. —

Voted, that
 James Otis Esq.
 William Story Esq.
 John Tuder Esq.
 Royal Tyler Esq.
 Oxenb. Thacher Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to prepare a By Law for the remedie of the evil complained of; and that they Report the next May Meeting. —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, That the Representatives of the Town be desired to use their influence at the next Session of the General Court, that such a Law may be Enacted as shall prevent the pernicious practise of forestalling the Market. —

Voted, That Mess^{rs}. Hugh Floyd, Jonathan Hall and others, not Inhabitants of this Town, but Petitioners, be permitted to come into this Meeting and speak to their proposal relative to making Bricks & Tyle on Boston Neck —

The Proposals of Mess^{rs} Hugh Floyd Jonathan Hall and others to make Brick and Tyle on the Land on the Neck leased to John Hill and Sam^l Whentworth Esq. were taken into consideration, and after debate had thereon, Voted, that

[538.]

Thomas Daws Esq.
 Joshua Henshaw Esq.
 Benjamin Kent Esq.
 Mr. William Fairfield
 William Phillips Esq.
 John Avery Esq.
 John Tudor Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to consider whether it will be for the benefit and advantage of the Town to permit the making of Brick and Tyle on Boston Neck, and also to hear and receive proposals from any Persons relative thereto, and that they Report next May Meeting.

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant. (Viz^t) "To determine what is proper to be done relative to the Incroachments on Circular Line. —"

Voted, that
 Royal Tyler Esq.
 Samuel Grant Esq.
 Joshua Henshaw Esq.
 Oxenbridge Thacher Esq.
 Mr. Henderson Inches

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to examine into those Incroachments, and Report next May Meeting.

The Proposals of the Overseers of the Poor respecting a Drain to carry off the Waste Water from the Almshouse and Work House being considered.

Voted, That the Gentlemen the Overseers of the Poor, be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take this matter into consideration, and apply such relief as they shall think proper, at the Towns Expence. —

The Town took into consideration that Article in the Warrant "Viz^t." Whether they will take on their risque such "Tickets in "Faneuil Hall Lottery, as may remain unsold on the Day that "shall be Assigned by the Managers for drawing the same." — After considerable Debate [539.] The Question was put — Whether the Town will take to their Account and at their risque all such Tickets in Faneuil Hall Lottery N^o. 1. as shall remain unsold on the Day that may be Assigned by the Managers for drawing the same — Passed in the Affirmative.

Voted, That this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 o'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment.

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant. (Viz^t.) "Whether the Town will make any allowance to Mr. Solomon "Kneeland for his Land in Water Street, the greater part of which "was taken from him in order to widen said Street —"

Voted, that
 William Story
 William Tayler
 William Phillips — Esqrs

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to take this matter into consideration, and Report next May Meeting —

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant (Viz^t.)

“ Whether the Town will Rebuild the Kitchen of the House Mr. John Lovel lives in, and enlarge the Cellar under it —

Voted, that Samuel Wells Esq.

John Tudor Esq.

Mr. Jonathan Williams

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to consider what is proper to be done and Report at May Meeting

Nathaniel Thwing Esq.

John Tudor Esq.

were chose Surveyors of Wheat for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Edward Cowell

[540.]

Edward Potter

Peter Ellis

Robert Treat

were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing in addition to the sixteen chose, see Page

Voted, that all Matters and Things that remain unfinish'd at this Meeting, be and hereby are referred over to the General Town Meeting in May next to be then considered of and acted upon

Voted, Unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to James Otis Esq the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 10th. Day of May AD: 1763.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Mr. Byles —

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting - - read

Sundry Laws - - - - - read

[541.] Thomas Cushing Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at Boston upon Wednesday the 25th. Day of May Current, and in order thereto to consider and ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected. accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the choice of Four Representatives and then it was declared by the Selectmen that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Pollts should be closed at twelve o'Clock —

The Votes being brought in, the number of Voters were found to be 1089, and upon sorting them it appeared, that the four following Gentlemen were chose - - viz^t.

Royal Tyler Esq. - - - - - 809 Votes

James Otis Esq. - - - - - 989

Thomas Cushing Esq. - - - - - 899

Oxenbridge Thacher Esq. - - - - - 716

The choice of Representatives being over and declared by the Selectmen —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 o'Clock P.M.

3 o'Clock P : M : The Town met according to Adjournment

The Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant ; accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew, and brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appear'd that James Otis Esq. was chosen. —

The Petition of the Proprietors of the Long Wharf in the Town of Boston, setting forth, that Cap^t. Oliver Noyes and others on the 19th. [542.] Of December 1709 made proposals to said Town for building a Wharfe from the lower end of King street down to low Water Mark &c. whereupon the Town then appointed their Selectmen a Committee to consider and Report their Opinion thereon, who took said Proposals under consideration, and at the Annual Meeting of said Town on the 13th. of March 1709/10 Reported in favor thereof, and that the granting their request would be of publick and general good to said Town, which Report was then accepted by the Town, and a Grant made accordingly, and the Selectmen were then Appointed a Comm^{ee}. on behalf of said Town to execute a proper Instrument in writing for the confirmation of the Grant aforesaid who executed said trust as by their Deed recorded in the Records of Deeds for the County of Suffolk May 17, 1710 Liber 25. Folio 48 more fully will appear, in which Deed there is this particular reservation in favor of your Petitioners that no Wharfe beyond the Circular Line shall be permitted or suffered to Join, or be forever built nearer than sixty feet of the Waste or Flatts in said Deed granted to said Proprietors. The Petitioners humbly pray leave to extend the Pier of said Wharfe twenty feet on the North side of said Wharfe, and that a Grant might be made them of the same, accordingly they have at a Meeting of said Proprietors on Wednesday the 4th. of May Instant Voted that if leave be given by the Town to extend the North side of the Pier twenty feet, they would Erect an additional Building to each Store of Seven feet Stud agreeable to Law, which if the same should be effected would be of undoubted service to the Town, in some measure in proportion as the Long Wharf has been, Had not the Petition aforesaid of 1709 been granted, but the Flatts then had continued Flatts now, it is certain no advantage from them would have accrued to the Town in general or to any of its Members, but the advantage to both in consequence of said Grant are too obvious even to be mentioned : And with respect to the Flatts now petitioned for its manifest they are of no benefit at present nor ever will be to the Town or any one Individual without this Petition be granted [543.] Because the Town nor any one hath any right to build upon them, but if the Prayer of this Petition be granted, then the additional Buildings thereon and the profits arising therefrom will in an ordinary way be of advantage to the Owners, and if of advantage to the Members of a Body, of consequence it must be to the Body itself, the Body always sharing in the advantages or disadvantages of its Members. Wherefore in as much as the Town cannot be served by the Flatts remaining as they are at present in as much as by a Vote of the Town, neither

the Town nor any one hath right to build thereon your Petitioners excepted, and not them without leave from the Town, which if obtaind may be of advantage to them, and consequently to the Town — Your Petitioners humbly hope that the prayer of their Petition may be granted, and your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray —

Considerable debate being had upon the above Petition, the Question was put. Viz^t. — Whether the same shall be referred to a Committee — Passed in the Affirmative —

Voted, that The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Flucker Esq.
The Hon^{ble}. Harrison Gray Esq.
Oxenbridge Thacher Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
Thomas Green Esq.

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to consider of the above Petition of the Proprietors of the Long Wharfe in Boston, and Report at the next General Town Meeting, what they apprehend the Town had best do thereon —

That Clause in the Warrant relative to Faneuil Hall Market being considered, the Question was put — Whether the further consideration thereof be referred to March Meeting — Passed in the Negative — It was then moved and seconded that Faneuil Hall Market should be [544.] Opened by the Selectmen as soon as it shall be so repair'd that the Butchers and others might bring their Provisions into it without interruption — and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affirmative —

The Committed Appointed the 14th. Day of March, last to prepare a By Law relative to forestalling the Market — Report — That having met and considered of the Matter referred, find that as far as a By-Law may serve the purpose within mentioned; sufficient provision is already made in the By-Laws of this Town; and that the great mischief therein mentioned can only be suppress'd by an Act of the General Court of this Province — Wherefore the said Committee Report, that it be an Instruction to the Representatives to be chosen at this Meeting that they use their utmost endeavors that such a Law be enacted. —

The above Report having been read, it was Voted, that the same be accepted, and that the Gentlemen who Represent the Town be and they hereby are desired to use their utmost endeavors in the General Court that such a Law be Enacted. —

The Committee appointed the 14th. of March last to examin into the incroachments on the Circular Line having Reported — It was Voted that the same be recommitted, and said Committee are desired to make further enquiry relative to those incroachments and Report the next General Town Meeting —

The Committee appointed the 14th. of March last to enquire in to the Expences of the Town, and whether any savings can be made as also to consider what Sum of Money it may be necessary to raise in order to defrey the Charges of the Town the ensuing Year — Report as follows —

That they have attended that service and after due [545.] Information from the Selectmen Overseers of the Poor and Town

Treasurer, all of whom appear to have served the Town with fidelity, they offer the following Report. viz^t.

That there appeard to be due to the Town from the respective Collectors of Taxes to the 25 of April last Six thousand eight hundred and four Pounds, but as the said Collectors had not then been paid their Premium for the Year 1761. which with what will be due to them for Premiums for 1762. amounts to one Thousand and eighty five Pounds four Shillings and six Pence, and as they are to be allowed for the abatements made and to be made in that Year, which the Assessors estimate at about £1000 — the sum really due from them will then be four thousand seven hundred and eighteen pounds fifteen shillings and six pence for the taxes of the year 1762 which when received by the treasurer, will discharge every demand upon him to the 11th. of March last, and leave a balance in favor of the town of two thousand and thirty four pounds one shilling and eight pence, besides this the town has the further sum of four hundred pounds in the hands of the committee for purchasing grain, and one hundred and seventy two pounds lent the society of the linnen manufacture, & a stock of powder &c. of the value of one hundred and fifty six pounds, which three last sums amount to seven hundred and twenty eight pounds. —

Your committee find that the overseers accounts for supporting the poor in and out of the alms house for the year 1762 amounted to £2110 ,, — ,, — they also find that the usual incidental charges paid by the Selectmen for repairs for the towns estates &c. are about four hundred pounds annually, which together with the stated salaries charges of collecting the taxes, assessors &c. make the towns certain expence as things now are, four thousand six hundred and forty three pounds, they find further that the town received from the province treasurer for the support of the province poor in the alms house four hundred and ninety pounds, and that the towns rents amount to £223 — p annum and the taxes received from strangers upon an average to be £210 ,, — ,, — yearly, and that there was expended for pavement at the [546.] Almshouse the last year £60 ,, — ,, — the whole whereof being £983 ,, — ,, — leaves £3660 ,, — ,, — to be raised by the town exclusive of any provision for necessary abatements, and extra expences —

Pa: 1^a. Your committee are of opinion that £120 ,, — ,, — p Annum may be saved of the aforementioned expence by reducing the number of watchmen from the present establishment to four captains at twenty four pounds p annum and sixteen others at eighteen pounds a year each, which will cost but £384 ,, — ,, — instead of £504 ,, — which is the present charge. —

2^d. They are further of opinion that in future the tax may be collected for three p c^a. which will save £100 ,, — ,, — p Year, and that at least £200 ,, — more may be saved yearly when the treasurer shall be in cash for the aforementioned balance of £2034 ,, 1 ,, 8 which your committee are of opinion should remain as a stock in the treasury for a constant fund to be made use of by the selectmen and overseers of the poor, as they may find it necessary for the benefit of the town. but on this express condition that such

sums as they shall draw from it be replaced out of the moneys raised annually by the town.

3^d. Your committee are further of opinion that there be raised the sum of four thousand four hundred and eighty pounds agreeable to the estimate here unto annexed, wherein is included £175 ,, — ,, — for rebuilding the kitchen of the house where M^r. John Lovel lives in case the town should think proper to do it, in this estimate ample provision is made for every charge that can be supposed to arise, and three hundred pound is included as a fund for abatement of taxes —

Your committee find by certificate from the province treasurer that there is now due to the province for the year 1761. four thousand and thirty two pounds five shillings and seven pence viz^t. —

[547.] From John Ruddock Esq. - - - -	£883	,,	10	,,	4
M ^r . Samuel Adams - - - -	2179	,,	1	,,	10
M ^r . Jonathan Payson - - - -	969	,,	—	,,	—
					<hr/>
			4032	,,	5
				7	
And the whole tax for the year 1762 - - - -	8570	,,	13	,,	7
					<hr/>
			12602	,,	19
				2	
which with the aforesaid sum due to - - - -					}
the town treasurer of - - - -			4178	,,	
makes - - - -				15	6
					<hr/>
			£17321	,,	4
				8	

Pa 4th. Your committee are of opinion that it would be very much for the interest of the town to have the taxes made in the months of July and August, and the books delivered to the collectors in september as they will then have a sufficient time to receive the money, and settle with the respective treasurers by the beginning of march —

5th. And it is the opinion of this committee that the town should strictly adhere to their votes passed respecting the several periods and proportions in which the collectors are obliged to pay the respective treasurys, in order to entitle them to any premium —

6th. Your committee are of opinion that in future there be six collectors of taxes, which will enable them to do the business with greater facility, as each of them will have but two wards to collect from —

7th. Your Committee are further of opinion that the assessors be not allowed more than two months to make abatements, after the books are delivered to the collectors and that no abatements be made after that time to any person but such as shall be out of the province during the said two months, and that the assessors in making their abatements have particular regard to the sum raised by the town as a fund for that purpose &^c.

This Report being read and debate had thereon, it was

[548.] Voted, that the same be considered of paragraph by paragraph, and thereupon the first paragraph being again read

Voted, that the same be accepted

Then the 2^d. Paragraph being read, and debate had thereon

Voted, that that part thereof which relates to the premium for collecting of the taxes be referred for further consideration to the next General Town Meeting. And that the other part relative to a sum of Money, remaining as a stock in the Treasury for the use of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor be accepted —

Then the 3^d. Paragraph being read and debated

Voted, That the same be accepted with this amendment and addition. Viz^t. That the sum of Four thousand six hundred Pounds be raised by a tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for relief of the Poor and defreying other necessary charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year —

The 4th. Paragraph being read and debated

Voted, that the same be accepted

The 5th. Paragraph being read and debated

Voted, That the same be referred over to the next General Town Meeting for further consideration —

The 6th. Paragraph being read and debated —

Voted, That the same be referred over to the next General Town Meeting for further consideration —

The 7th. and last Paragraph being read and debated

Voted, That the same be accepted —

The Committee appointed the 14th. Day of March last relative to M^r. John Lovels Kitchen and the Cellar under the same — Report — That they had examined the Premisses and find that the Kitchen is small and uncomfortable and wants repair, and as there is no Cellar only under one Room of the House there had been many difficultys for want of more, but if the Town should think [549.] Proper to build a new Kitchen, it was their Opinion that it is very necessary to make a Cellar under the same — This Report being read and debate had thereon, the Question was put, Whether the Kitchen of the House M^r. John Lovel lives in should be repair'd — passed in the affermative. —

It being moved that the above Vote be reconsidered and the Question accordingly put, it passed in the affermative —

It was then Voted, that M^r John Lovels Kitchen be Re-built with a Cellar under the same, and that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to see this Vote carried into execution

The Committee Appointed the 14th. Day of March last to consider of the Proposals of Hugh Floyd Jonathan Hall and others to make Brick and Tile on the Land on the Neck leased to John Hill and Samuel Whentworth Esqrs. — Report — That they had repaired to the Land on Boston Neck leased to John Hill and Samuel Whentworth Esq. and there met with the within named Jonathan Hall only, who declared he had no Proposals to make concerning the making Brick & Tile on the said Land — and further, that in their Opinion it would not be for the benefit of the Town to permit the making of Brick and Tyle on said Neck. —

The above Report having been read and debate had thereon it was Voted, that the same be accepted

The Committee Appointed the 14th. of March upon the affair of

M^r. Solomon Kneelands Land in Water Street having Reported — It was Voted that the same be Recommended, and said Committee are desired to Report again the next General Town Meeting —

Voted, that the sum of Twenty Pounds be & hereby is allowed M^r. John Lovel Master of the South Grammar School in addition to his [550.] Last Years grant for which he has already had a draft on the Treasury, as through mistake £100 ,, — ,, — instead of £120 — was then Voted him —

Voted, That the sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Peleg Wiswall for his Salary as Master of the North Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Samuel Holyoke for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Procter for his Salary as a Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Abia Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

[551.] Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Tileston for his Salary as Master of the North Writing School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Ephraim Langdon for his Salary as Usher of the North Grammar School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, as the same shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Vinal for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in the Common the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him

quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Tileston Master of the North Writing School for providing an Assistant for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter. —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto M^r. David Jeffries for his services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office.

M^r. Jacob Williams

was chosen a Culler of Staves for the Year ensuing.

[552.] Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and hereby is directed and empowered to allow the several Schoolmasters, Interest on the Sums due to them from the date of their Warrants to the time of payment. —

The Committee appointed the 8th. of March 1762 to Visit the Publick Schools, now Report as follows — Viz^t. —

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 10. 1763 —

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their Annual Meeting the 8th. of March 1762, desiring the Selectmen to visit the several Publick Schools in the Town, and to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein as they shall think proper, and to Report thereon

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that service on Tuesday the 29th day of June last, accompanied by the following Gentlemen Viz^t.

The Hon^{ble}: William Brattle Esq.
John Erving Esq.
Thomas Hubbard Esq.
Thomas Hancock Esq.

The Representatives of the Town
The Overseers of the Poor

Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Richard Dana Esq.
Middlecot Cook Esq.
Jeramiah Gridley Esq.
Joseph Dowse Esq.
Epps Sergeant Esq.
Roger Hale Esq.
Richard Clark Esq.
William Story Esq.
William Blair Townsend Esq.
John Erving Esq.

[553.]

Mess^{rs}: John Dennie
Alexander Hill
William Greenleaffe
Oxenbridge Thacher
Samuel Adams
David Jeffries

Benjamin Hammatt
 Limers (a Stranger)
 Rev^d. Alexander Cummins
 Samuel Cooper
 Mather Byles
 M^r. Gorden (Stranger)
 Ebenezer Pemberton
 Andrew Elliot
 Samuel Mather
 Samuel Checkley Jun^r.
 Samuel Checkley
 D^r. Jonathan Mayhew
 Charles Chauncey
 Joseph Sewall

And found the South Grammar School had 119 Scholars, the North Grammar School 68 Scholars, the South Writing School 236 Scholars, the North Writing School 176 Scholars, the Writing School in Queen Street 238 Scholars, all in very good order. —

THOMAS CUSHING	} Selectmen of Boston
JOHN SCOLLAY	
BENJAMIN AUSTIN	
SAMUEL SEWALL	
EZEKIEL LEWIS	

Voted, that the above Report be accepted, and that the Gentlemen the Selectmen, be desired to visit the Publick Schools the Year ensuing [554.] And that they desire such Gentlemen to accompany them therein as they shall think convenient; and that they Report thereon.

Mess^{rs}. William Fisher
 Peter Boyer

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing.

Mess ^{rs} . Edward Baker	- - - -	Sworn
Matthew Wakefield		do
John Edwards		

were chose Constables for the Year ensuing

M^r. Jonathan Blake

was chosen a Sealer of Leather for the Year ensuing.

Voted, that all Matters and Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the next General Town Meeting.

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the business thereof.

— Then the Meeting was dissolved —

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 6th Day of September Anno Domini 1763. —

[555.] The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - was read.

James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator by a written Vote.

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant Viz'. "That some Measures might be taken that a certain slip of Land lying on the North side of Water Street, may be annexed to said Street" It was moved and seconded and accordingly put — Whether a Committee shall be Appointed to take this matter into consideration and to Report the next Meeting — Passed in the Negative —

Then a Question was put — Whether the Town would take any Measures that a certain slip of Land lying on the North side of Water Street, may be Annexed to said Street — Passed in y^e. Negative.

That Clause in the Warrant. Viz'. "That some Methods may be taken to remove the Nuisance in the Passage Way from the Main Street leading to the Common called Hog Alley" was considered and after Debate had thereon

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to enquire into this matter, and Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting, the circumstances thereof, and what they may apprehend best to be done thereon.

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant. Viz'. "Whether any Methods should be taken to preserve Deer Island Head from the further Inroachments of the Sea"

Voted, that
 Joshua Henshaw
 Royal Tyler
 Samuel Wells
 Samuel Wentworth
 Nathaniel Wheelright Esqrs.

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to examine into the present Circumstances of Deer Island Head, and to make a true representation [556.] Thereof to the General Court at their next Session; at the same time setting forth of what importance it is to the trading Interest of this Province that said Head Land and thereby this Harbour should be preserved from the ruin that now threatens them; and praying that such speedy and effectual methods may be taken for this purpose, as the General Court in their Great Wisdom shall think meet.

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant. Viz'. "Whether any more effectual Measures shall be taken for the preventing Chimnies so frequently taking Fire" —

Voted, that
 Joshua Henshaw Esq.
 Thomas Daws Esq.
 Royal Tyler Esq.
 M^r. Samuel Adams
 M^r. Benjamin Dolbear

be and hereby are appointed a Committee, to consider of the Schem which Thomas Daws Esq, has laid before the Town relative to this matter; as also of any other Proposals that may come before said Committee; and that they Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting, what Measures they Apprehend most expedient to be taken for the purpose aforesaid. —

That Clause in the Warrant. Viz'. "Whether any further step can now be taken for the more speedy and effectual supplying

“ the Overseers of the Poor with Money for the purchasing Necessarys for the Almshouse, being considered, the Question was accordingly put — Whether any such step could now be taken — Passed in the Negative.” —

That Clause in the Warrant, Viz^t. “ Whether the Town will improve the Indulgence of the General Court, which by a [557.] Late Law permits them to Elect and Appoint, Four meet Persons as Fire-Wards, in addition to the present number of twelve &c.” being Read, it was Voted, that the Consideration thereof be referred over to the next March Meeting. —

That Clause in the Warrant relative to a Bill now pending in the General Court directing how Rates and Taxes shall be Assessed and Collected &c. &c. being read, it was Voted that the consideration of this Matter be referred over to the Adjournment of this Meeting, Also Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to get printed, and dispers'd amongst the Inhabitants, Copys of the Bill now pending before the General Court relative to some new power being given the Collectors of Taxes. —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Wednesday the Twenty first Instant at Nine O'clock in the Forenoon, and the same was Adjourned accordingly. —

Wednesday September 21 9. O'Clock in the Forenoon, the Town Met according to Adjournment —

The Committee Appointed the 10th of May last upon the affair of M^r. Solomon Kneelands Land in Water Street Report— That having met M^r. Kneeland and viewd the Land taken from him to widen the Street are of Opinion, That the said Solomon Kneeland be allowed the Sum of Six Pounds Seventeen Shillings and four Pence for the Land taken from him and added to Water Street; whereupon Voted that the said Report be and hereby is accepted, and that M^r. Kneeland have a Draft on the Treasurer accordingly.

That Clause in the Warrant relative to a Bill now pending in the General Court, which relates to the Collecting of Taxes, was read, [558.] And after debate had thereon, the Question was put — Viz^t. “ Whether the Town approve of the Bill now pending in the General directing how Rates and Taxes shall be Assessed and Collected &c. in its present form — Passed in the Negative.

Report of the Committee relative to the Longe Wharfe was read, and after debate had thereon, it was Voted that the further Consideration thereof should be deferred.—

Voted, that John Avery Esq.

Samuel Wentworth Esq.

John Rowe Esq.

Nathaniel Wheelwright Esq.

John Scollay Esq.

M^r. Thomas Gray

M^r. John Pigeon

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to hear the Collectors of the Town, and to examin into their difficultys in Collecting the Taxes, and in what Instances it may be expedient to enable the

Collectors to Sue at Common Law, for the Taxes so committed to them to Collect, and to Report as soon as may be

The Committee appointed the 6th. of September Instant to consider of the expediency of shutting up Hog Alley — Report, That they had attended that Service, and find that said Alley has been used as a publick Way for a long course of Years, and was Recorded as such in the Town Records in the Year 1708 — that it is not attended with much greater Nusances than such narrow Passages generally are — That the danger arising from Horses and Cows passing through the same may be prevented if the Town think proper to fix Turn Pikes at each end of the Alley, and that they did not apprehend such a necessity for shutting up the said Alley as would Justifie their Reporting in favor of it — whereupon [559.] Voted, that this Report be accepted and that the Selectmen be and hereby are desired and impow'rd to provide Turn Pikes for Hog Alley, and that the same be fixed as soon as may be —

Joshua Henshaw Esq. and others a Committee reletive to Chimnies having made Report, it was thereupon Voted, that the same be recommitted, and that Oxenbridge Thacher Esq. and James Otis Esq. be and hereby are added to said Committee, who are desired to Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting. —

Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday October 4th. 3 O'Clock P: M: And the Meeting was adjourn'd accordingly.

Tuesday October 4th. 3 O'Clock P: M: The Town Met according to Adjournment. —

The Committee relative to Chimnies having acquainted the Town that by reason of the absence of several of their number, and for other Causes, they were not yet able to make Report, upon which it was Voted, that said Committee be requested to have further consideration on that Matter, and that they Report at the next General Town Meeting.

The Committee relative to Circular Line, Report, That they find the following facts among the Records of the Town. That on the 5th of September 1673, at a General Town Meeting, (the Council having recommended to the Selectmen of the Town the erecting a Wall or Wharff of Brick and Stone upon the Flatts before the Town from the Sconce to Cap^t. Scarlets Wharfe or to use some other means for the security of the Town from the approach of an Enemy which recommendation they then laid before the Town, and the following Votes, passed thereon — 1st. Whether the Inhabitants will be at any charge for erecting such a [560.] Wall or Wharff — it passed in the Negative — 2^d. the Question was put, whether the Selectmen of the Town may order and dispose of the Flatts before the Town, from the Sconce to Cap^t. Scarlets Wharff, for the better security of the Town, as they may Judge best, any former order to the contrary notwithstanding. It was resolved in the affirmative — In consequence of this Vote the Committee find that the Selectmen on the 5th of September 1673 did agree with a number of Persons to erect a Wall and Wharff of Stone and Wood upon the following terms, viz^t. — That upon

their compleating said Wharff agreeable to the Conditions containd in their agreement with the said Selectmen which Agreement is in the Records of the Town in Book N. 2. Page 81 — they should have right to build in back from said Wall 200 feet towards the Town in proportion to the breadth that they build in y^e. front, and that the remainder of the Flatts should be open for the security of Vessells; but that those who undertook any part of this Wall, and were Abutters on the within Cove should also have right to Wharff out before their own Land, and in proportion with others about one hundred feet beyond Governor Leverets and M^r. Alford's Wharfes and to improve the same for their best advantage, to them their Heirs and Assigns forever as should be staked out in a Circular Line according to a Platt or Map then taken of the Cove, reserving also to such others of the Abutters or Borderers on the said Flatts who refused to Join in the said Wall, liberty of egress and regress, lying at their Wharffs Loading and unloading &c.

The Committee further find that at a Meeting of the Town March 29th. 1728 a Committee was appointed to inspect into the ruinous conditions the out Wharffs granted to the several Undertakers in the Year 1673 are in; and to Report at the next General Meeting what they should think proper for the Town to do to Redress said grievance — And accordingly at the next [561.] Meeting the 14th. May following they Reported that three Years should be allowed them to Rebuild the said Wharffs according to their Agreement with the Town and they who should not build up their respective parts in said term of three Years, should forfeit their Rights and Privileges granted them by the Town, and that proper Methods in such case should be taken to declare the same null and void, which Report was read and accepted, and that at the next Meeting the June following the said Report was committed to the Representatives of the Town, and it was Voted that they should be desired to lay it before the General Court and take proper methods to have it confirm'd, but the Committee do not find that the Court did anything relative thereto, or that it was ever laid before the Court.

The Committee also find with the Records of the Town a Plan of the Line of defence and of the Cove within the same, taken by M^r. Jacob Sheaffe by order of the Selectmen in 1708 which Plan so far as they have been able to observe, exactly correspond, with the descriptions of a Circular Line referr'd to in many of the ancient Records of the Town, and are of opinion that the said Plan is a good & sufficient one to settle the several boundaries by, but at the same time recommend it to the Town that this Plan be immediately run out by some skillful Person. —

It further appears by said Plan that there are several encroachments upon said Line and that if something be not immediately done further encroachments will soon be made, contrary as the Committee apprehend to the Interest of the Town in general, as well as very prejudicial to the property of many of the Inhabitants, for it is quite apparent should some of the Abutters go on to Wharfe out as they have begun they will soon intersect one another, and needlessly close up a great part of the Cove, when

not any of the Abutters have right to exceed the Circular Line, and by far the greater part cannot Wharfe out even to that — without special leave to the Town. The Committee are also of opinion that it would be for the Interest of the Town to appoint [562.] A Committee to meet the several Proprietors of Wharfes abutting on or near the Circular Line and that such Committee be directed and impower'd to renew said Line with said Proprietors and explain and reduce to the greatest certainty the manner of extending the Wharfs of such as have right to build out, to the Circular Line, as also to accommodate all differences between the Town and such as have encroached on the Towns Lands, within or without the Circular Line and to make Report to the Town at their next Meeting in order for their acceptance and that the Selectmen in the mean time be directed and impowered to bring forward and prosecute such Action or Actions for removing or preventing encroachments on the Towns Lands within or without the Circular Line, as by Council learned in the Law be advised — which is submitted in the Name and by order of the Committee —

ROYAL TYLER

Whereupon it was Voted that the Report be accepted; it was further Voted that

Royal Tyler Esq.
 Samuel Grant Esq.
 Joshua Henshaw Esq.
 Oxenbridge Thacher Esq.
 M^r. Henderson Inches

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to meet the several Proprietors of Wharfes abutting on or near the Circular Line who are hereby directed and impower'd to renew said Line with said Proprietors and explain and reduce to the greatest certainty the manner of extending the Wharfe of such as have right to build out to the Circular Line; as also to accommodate all difference between the Town and such as have encroached on the Town Lands, within or without the Circular Line, and to make Report at next General Town Meeting —

The Committee Appointed the 10th Day of May last [563.] To consider of the Petition of the Proprietors of the Long Wharfe — Report. That having considered the Petition, heard the Petitioners and view'd the Premises, it was their Opinion that the Prayer of the Petition be granted, and that the Petitioners be permitted to extend the Pier of the Wharf as pray'd for, and that the Town direct the Selectmen to execute a Deed of Grant without Warranty of the Flatts within the said extent; after considerable debate the Question was put — Viz^t. Whether the said Report shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative.

The Committee appointed the 21st. of September last to hear the Collectors of the Town and to examine into their difficultys &c. and in what instances it may be expedient to enable the Collectors to Sue at Common Law for the Taxes &c — Report

1st. When any Person after being duly rated in this Town shall conceal his Person and Estate; that the Collectors or Constables shall have his remedy to recover by Suit against the Trustees of such Offender, as Creditors have by Law to recover their Debts —

2^d. When any Person rated as aforesaid shall die before payment of his Taxes; or when the Collector or Constable shall die before perfecting his Collection, the Executors and Administrators respectively may Sue or be Sued —

3^d. When any Person duly rated in this Town, shall remove out of it and become an Inhabitant of another without paying his Tax, the Collector shall have his Action at Law —

4th. When any Single Woman is rated, and before payment of said Taxes intermarrys, that the Collector or Constable may bring Action against the Husband.

After some debate had upon the above Report, it was Voted that the same be considered of Paragraph by Paragraph, and the first Paragraph being again read, Voted that the same be accepted — The 2^d. Paragraph being again read, Voted, that the same be accepted — The 3^d. Paragraph being again read, Voted, that the same be accepted, The 4th. Paragraph being again read, Voted, that the same be accepted — It was further Voted, that when the time of payment to the respective Treasurers is [564.] Elapsed, and the Collectors and Constables have paid the Sums given them to Collect, that they shall have remedie by Suit against Delinquents for the same Year for which they have so paid in, to be in force for two Years and no longer.

Voted, that the Representatives of the Town be and hereby are desired and Instructed to use their best influence at the General Court, that a Law may be Enacted which shall include the Spirit and Substance of the above Votes, relative to Collecting of Taxes &c. —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and Warned in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 20th. of February 1764.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. D^r. Sewall.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read

The Town proceeded to the choice of a Moderator by a Hand Vote, when the Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq. was Unanimously chosen

[565.] The Petition of a number of Inhabitants respecting the Small Pox was read; — As also the Petition of others respecting Inoculating Hospitals was also read — After considerable debate on the subject matter of these Petitions —

Voted, Unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Gentlemen the Selectmen of the Town for their great care and pains to prevent the spread of the Small Pox in this Town; and that they be desired to continue their good Offices for that end. —

Voted, That the Gentlemen the Selectmen together with James Otis, John Ruddock, Samuel Wells, Harrison Gray, Foster Hutchinson Esq^r. M^r. Thomas Gray, Benjamin Kent & John Tudor Esq^r. be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to take into their serious Consideration what Measures are most expedient for the Town to take in their present distress'd Circumstances, by reason of the Small Pox, more especially the Proposals made relative to Inoculating Hospitals, and to Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting.

Voted, that this Meeting be and hereby is Adjourned to Fryday next at 10 O'Clock in the Forenoon. —

February 24th. 10 O'Clock A. M: The Town Met according to Adjournment —

The Committee Appointed the 20th. of this Instant February to consider what are the most expedient Methods for the Town to take in their present distressed Circumstances by reason of the Small Pox, and of the Proposals made relative to Inoculating Hospitals— Report, That it be recommended to the Selectmen still to continue their endeavors to prevent the Spread of the Distemper, and that for the accommodation of such of the Inhabitants, as are inclined to take the Distemper [566.] By Inoculation it will be expedient for the Town to countenance the Establishment of Inoculating Hospitals, and they find upon enquiry that the Houses at Point Shirley are very convenient for that purpose; that a number of Physicians have hired the Houses at said Place with a view of improving them as Inoculating Hospitals, and are ready to admit any of the Physicians of the Town to Inoculate their Patients there, they paying a reasonable consideration for the Houses and Furniture, and that a number of Physicians are about engaging Houses at some of the Islands near the Town for the same purpose— They further Report that they have also considered the Petition for establishing an Inoculating Hospital in this Town, and are of opinion it will not be convenient at present to have suchⁿ an Hospital within the Peninsula

The above Report having been read, and debate had thereon,

Voted, that the same be accepted —

Voted, that the Selectmen acquaint M^r. Nathan Spear now sick with the Small Pox, that it is the desire of the Town now Assembled in Town Meeting, that he would consent to his being immediately removed to the Hospital at West Boston— provided it can be done with safety to his Life —

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that.

Thomas Hubbard
 Samuel Wells
 John Ruddock
 Robert Auchmuty
 Benjamin Kent
 Foster Hutchinson Esq^r.
 M^r. Samuel Adams
 M^r. Henry Newman
 Richard Dana Esq.

[567.] Be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to examin the several Laws of this Province relative to Infectious Distempers, and Report to the Town at their next Meeting, their Opinion of the expediency of applying to the General Court for any further Act.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted unanimously That the Thanks of this Town be and hereby are given the Rev^d. M^r. George Whitefield for his Charitable care and pains in collecting a considerable Sum of Money in Great Britain for the distressed Sufferers by the great Fire in Boston Anno Domini 1760 — and that,

James Otis Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
John Steel Esq.
Royal Tyler Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to wait on M^r. Whitefield, and inform him of this Vote ; and that he be presented with a Copy thereof. —

Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[568.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 12th. Day of March Anno Dom. 1764.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. M^r. Andrew Elliot

The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read.

Sundry Laws enjoined to be read at this Meeting were accordingly read.

James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting and took the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island, as required by an Act of this Province.

William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing and having taken the Oath relating to his receiving and paying Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty which Oaths were administered to him by the Hon^{ble}. Samuel Wells Esq. —

The Town proceeded to the choice of seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted it appeared that

Joshua Henshaw
Joseph Jackson
John Scollay
Benjamin Austin
Samuel Sewall

Nathaniel Thwing
John Ruddock Esq^r.

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing —

[569.] Thomas Cushing Esq. one of the late Selectmen having before the above choice informed the Town, that he was much obliged to them for the Honor done him in choosing him a Selectman for a number of Years past; that he found his Business would not permit him to serve in that Office any longer, and therefore desired his Name might not be put in the new List — Samuel Hews and Ezekiel Lewis Esq. having made a like excuse and expressed the same desire — It was Unanimously Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the above named Gentlemen, for their faithful services as Selectmen some time past —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Barratt Esq.
Royal Tyler Esq.
M^r. Benjamin Dolbear
Isaac Smith Esq.
M^r. Jonathan Mason
M^r. Henry Bromfield
Meletiah Bourn Esq.
Joseph Gardner Esq.
M^r. William Whitwell
Cap^t. Benjamin Hammatt
M^r. Henderson Inches
M^r. Ebenezer Storer

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing and took the Oaths required by Law —

The Votes were brought in for a Town Treasurer, and upon sorting them it appeared that M^r. David Jeffries was unanimously chosen, and having taken the Oath relating to his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty, which Oaths were administred to him [570] By the Honorable Samuel Wells Esq. —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them it appeared that —

M^r. William Whitwell
M^r. Nathaniel Holmes
Maj^r. Newman Grenough
Onesip^r. Tileston Esq.
Cap^t. Samuel Partridge
William Holmes Esq.
M^r. Johnson Jackson
John Gore Esq.
M^r. William Gray
Benjamin Andrews Esq.
M^r. Thomas Fletcher
Cap^t. William Fisher

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing.

Royal Tyler Esq. in the name of the Overseers represented to

the Town, that being acquainted by the Selectmen that a number of Physicians were willing to Inoculate such of the Poor Gratis, as were desirous of receiving the Small Pox in that way; they had accordingly waited upon those Gentlemen, who readily engaged to carry through that Distemper their proportion of the Poor of the Town either in the natural way or by Inoculation, as also to find Medicines and give proper attendance Gratis — they mentioned among other Things, that they were apprehensive that the great number of Persons which will be immediately laid down may so take up the attention of those Physicians who have thus engaged, as to prevent them in some instances from attending the sick Poor who may thereby suffer; and that therefore they had secured as Physicians to be at the call of the Overseers in all such cases — whereupon it was Voted [571.] That the Conduct of the Overseers in those particulars are satisfactory to the Town —

Voted that the Town Clerk be directed to Advertise in the several News Papers, that it is expected and required of the Inhabitants that they strictly conform to the Law relative to sweeping of Chimnies &c. as Fires at this Time of sickness must be peculiarly distressing —

Voted, that the Gentlemen Overseers of the Poor be desired to take such care of the Chimnies of the Houses occupied by those Persons who are unable to pay the Charge of sweeping &c. as they may apprehend most for the safety of the Town

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “Whether any Measures shall be taken to prevent Strangers coming into the Town or any of the Inhabitants to be Inoculated after a certain Time allowed for that purpose

Voted, that the Hon^{ble}. Harrison Gray Esq.

Hon^{ble}. Samuel Wells Esq.

Royal Tyler Esq.

John Barratt Esq.

Thomas Cushing Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

Benjamin Kent Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to consider of this Matter, and Report as soon as may be

Voted, that any Person chosen into the Office of a Constable for the Year ensuing may be excused from serving, on his paying the Sum of Four Pounds.

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Constables; the Persons [572.] Chose into that Office are —

Mess ^{rs} . Augustus Hale	-	-	-	-	Sworn
Nathaniel Thayer	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
James Thomas	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Francis Salmon	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Edward Baker	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
John Welds	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Thomas Bradford	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
John Kinney	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Thomas Moore	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Isaac Ridgway	-	-	-	-	d ^o .

Samuel Procter - - - - d°.
 Samuel McClure - - - - d°.
 Elisha Byles - - excused having served.

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire Wards, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Joseph Jackson Esq.
 John Scollay Esq.
 Royal Tyler Esq.
 Newman Grenough Esq.
 Cap^t. Solomon Davis
 M^r. William Cooper
 M^r. Samuel Austin
 M^r. Joseph Jackson
 John Rowe Esq.
 M^r. John Mico Wendell
 M^r. Henderson Inches
 Thomas Marshall Esq.
 William Holmes Esq.
 M^r. Joseph Tyler
 M^r. Jonathan Williams
 M^r. Timothy Fitch

[573.]

were chose for the Year ensuing —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Clerks of the Market, and upon sorting them it appear'd, that

Mess^{rs}. Benjamin Henderson
 Benjamin Edes
 Samuel Torrey
 John Scott
 John Cunningham
 Edward Walker
 Ezra Collins
 Thomas Browne
 Thomas Leverett
 Jeremiah Belknap
 Joseph Tyler
 Edward Blanchard

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourn'd to 3 O'Clock P. M.

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment. —

The Town took into consideration a proposal made by one of their Committees the last Year, for chosing Six Collectors of Taxes, and the Question being put (Viz^t.) Whether there shall be six Collectors chose — Passed in the Negative —

Voted, that the Sum of Nine Pence on the Pound be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall Collect, provided they pay into the Town Treasury one half part of the whole Sum they are obliged to [574.] Pay him, within tour Mounths from the Time they receive the Tax Books from the Assessors, and the other half in three Months after; and also pay into the Province and County Treasuries one half part of the whole

Sum they shall be obliged them respectively in seven Months from the time they shall receive the Tax Books from the Assessors as aforesaid, and the other half part in Five Months after; and in case either of said Collectors shall fail paying in the manner aforesaid, the Collector so failing shall not be entitled to the aforesaid allowance of Nine Pence on the Pound, but wholly forfeit the same; provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen, for the faithful discharge of their duty in said Office, and complying with the Vote —

Voted, that the Selectmen shall have a discretionary power as to the payment of the Collectors Premium, for the Year ensuing, any former Vote notwithstanding —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that —

Jonathan Payson Esq.

M^r. John Grant

M^r. Samuel Adams

Cap^t. Gyles Harris

were chose into that Office —

The Committee relative to Chimnies acquainting the Town that they were not yet ready to make Report — Voted that said Committee be required to have further consideration on the Matter and Report at the General Town Meeting to be held in May next —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors [575.] And upon sorting them it appeared that,

Mess^{rs}. William Fairfield

John Kneeland

Benjamin Church

Jonathan Brown

Samuel Downe

Belcher Noyes Esq.

William Torrey

were chose into that Office for the Year ensuing —

M^r. John Gray was chosen Surveyor of Hemp.

Mess^{rs}. William Nichols

Clement Collins

Jacob Thayer

Henry Allyne

John Grenough

Andrew Symms

Isaac Vergoose

John Sergeant

William Payne

John Langley

Richard Walker

John Skillins

were chose Surveyers of Boards & Shingles for the Year ensuing.

Onesip^s. Tileston Esq.

M^r. Obediah Lowe

Hopetill Capen

William Crafts

Samuel Dyer
Benjamin Andrews Esq.

[576.] Were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Sutton Byles
Cornelius Thayer
Isaac Haws
William Cromby

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner
Samuel Whitwell

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Peter Cotta
Manasseh Masters
Joseph Dyer
John Harskins
David Spear
Nathan Spear
Jonathan Jenkins
Samuel Treat
Robert Brick Jun^r.
Job Wheelwright
Joshua Pico
Benjamin Salt
Paul Baxter
John Owen
Thomas Knox
Samuel White
Edward Cowell
Edward Potter
Peter Ellis
Robert Treat

[577.] Were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. David Simens.
John Bacon

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing —

Mr. Edward Curtis

was chosen Hayward for the Year ensuing —

The Committee Appointed to consider “Whether the Town will take any Measures to prevent Strangers coming into the Town or any of the Inhabitants to be Inoculated after a certain Time allowed for that purpose” Report — That no Person not being an Inhabitant of this Town shall have liberty to come into this Town in order to be Inoculated until the first of April, nor shall be Inoculated in said Town after the 10th. Day of April next. And those of the Inhabitants of the Town that have removed into the Country, shall not have liberty to be Inoculated in the Town after the first Day of May next, unless at that Time there shall be upwards of twenty Familys visited with that Distemper” — After debate had thereon, the Question was put, Whether said Report be accepted — Passed in the Affermative —

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “Whether the Town will “accept of the Grant of Three Thousand Pounds made to them

“by the General Court at their last Session, which together with
 “what has been already advanced was Voted in full consideration
 “for what they have over paid in the Publick Taxes for Years
 past” was read and after many objections and difficultys mentioned,
 and a large debate —

Voted, That considering the distressing Circumstances of the
 Inhabitants by means of the Small Pox, and the absolute Necessi-
 sity of ready Money for the Poor and Needy, the Town do accept
 the Grant aforesaid and hereby direct the Town Treasurer to apply
 to His Excellency [578.] The Governor and the Hon^{ble}. the
 Council for a Warrant on the Province Treasurer for the Three
 Thousand Pounds granted

Mess^{rs}. Robert Edwards
 Ezra Collins
 John Martin
 William Daws
 Ebenezer Lowell
 Jeremiah Webb
 William Scott
 Gershom Tinney
 John Welch
 Ephraim Mayes
 Benjamin Burt
 Edward Winter

were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that M^r. Thomas Gray
 William Story Esq.
 M^r. Ezekiel Price
 M^r. Timothy Newell
 M^r. John Muffatt

be and they hereby are Appointed a Committee to Audit the Ac-
 counts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accounts of the
 Overseers of the Poor; and the said Committee are enjoind to in-
 spect every particular Account of the Monys expended for the use
 of the Almshouse; they are also impowred when they shall Audit
 said Accounts to allow such of the Overseers as shall advance
 Moneys for the relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums, from
 the Time so advanced, till they shall have Audited said Accompts

Joseph Jackson Esq.
 John Scollay Esq.
 William Phillips Esq.

[579.] were chose purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing
 — And they are desired and impowred to give all needful di-
 rections to the Keeper of the Granary, respecting the Quantitys of
 Grain to be sold, and affixing the price thereof from Time to Time
 as occasion shall require —

Mess^{rs}. Martin Gay
 David Cutler

were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing.

M^r. Abijah Adams

was chosen Clerk of Faneuil Hall Market for the Year ensuing.

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant. (Viz^t.) “To

consider whether they will choose a Committee to examine the Accounts of the Managers of Faneuil Hall Lotteries," —

Voted, that M^r. William Greanleaffe
William Phillips Esq.
Royal Tyler Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee for that purpose —

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant. (Viz^t.)
"Whether the Town will take on their risque such Tickets in Faneuil Hall Lotterys as may remain unsold on the Days that may be assign'd by the Managers for drawing said Lotteries" — The Question was put accordingly — Passed in the Affermative —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to the next Morning. 9 O'Clock —

Tuesday Morning. 9 O'clock Met according to Adjournment.

William Story Esq.
John Ruddock Esq.

[580.] were by a Vote of the Town added to the Committee Appointed by the Town, to examine the Accompts of the Managers of Faneuil Hall Lotteries —

The Petition of John Pigeon and others relative to Paving part of Fish Street, being read — Voted that the further consideration thereof be referred to the General Town Meeting to be held in May next —

The Selectmen were chose Surveyors of High Ways for the Year ensuing —

Nathaniel Thwing Esq.
John Tudor Esq.

were chose Surveyors of Wheat for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that the Assessors be and are hereby impowered and directed to set for the abatement of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Thursday, till the first Thursday in April inclusive, and no longer, saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November for the Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an opportunity of applying in the above limited Time, by reason of their being out of the Province, at which Time they are also allowed and impowered to abate the Taxes of such Persons, as may have died Insolvent or become Bankrupts between the said last Thursday in April and the last Day of November.

Voted, that the consideration of the School Masters Salarys, and all other Salarys and Grants be referred to next May Meeting —

[581.] Voted, that such of the Inhabitants as shall Advance Moneys to the Town for the use of the Almshouse on or before the 15th. of April next, be and hereby are allowed after the rate of 6 p c^t. upon such Sums as they shall so advance, said Monys to be paid by the Collectors to the Overseers of the Poor, to be by them laid out in Provisions, and other Necessarys for the use aforesaid; and the Collectors are hereby Ordered and impowered to discount those Sums together with the allowance thereon out of the said Gentlemens respective Taxes for the Year 1764 —

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to Act upon the List of Jurors —

The Selectmen Reported, on the Account of Mr. John Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, which Account as entered in his Books, and on File in the Town Clerks Office was read, whereupon it was Voted that the same be accepted, and that Mr. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 680 Bushels Indian Corn, and 60 Bushels of Rye remaining unsold amounting to £129 ,, 1 ,, 4. and also for the Sum of £250 ,, 4 ,, 574 in Cash now in his hands, exclusive of the Sum of £26 ,, 13 ,, 4 for his Salary and Assistance, as charged in his Account, which is hereby allowed him. —

The Committee Appointed to Examine the Accounts of the Managers of Faneuil Hall Lotteries — Report that they had Examined the Accounts of the Managers for Lotteries N^o. 1 & 2 and found the same right cast — whereupon Voted that said Report be accepted, and that the following Sums be allowed and paid to said Managers in full of their Accounts — Viz: —

To Thomas Cushing Esq. - - -	£29	,,	5
Samuel Hews Esq. - - -	27	,,	6
John Scollay Esq. - - -	29	,,	11
[582.] Benjamin Austin Esq. - - -	30	“	— ,, —
Samuel Sewall Esq. - - -	31	,,	4 ,, —
Mr. Sam. Phi. Savage - - -	26	,,	5 ,, —
Ezekiel Lewis Esq. - - -	31	,,	1 ,, —

The Committee appointed to Audit Mr. Treasurer Jeffries Accounts of last Year, not being able to Report. Voted that it is the desire of the Town that they make said Report next May Meeting.

The Petition of James Day, that a balance due from him to the Town when a Collector of Taxes may be Remitted him for reasons set forth in that Petition, was considered whereupon Voted that the Prayer of the Petition be granted, and that the balance due from him to the Town as set forth in said Petition, be and hereby is Remitted him. —

The Town having taken into consideration the Report of the Committee respecting Inoculation which Report was accepted and stands entered in these Records six Pages back —

Voted, That the said Report be in part reconsidered, and that all Persons Inhabitants and others have free liberty to come into Town and be Inoculated before the 20th. of April next; and that after that Time the Selectmen be desired to take the same Measures for cleansing the Town of y^e. Infection as were practiced in 1732 and that those Votes be published in the Boston News Papers, that all Persons may have notice of the Town resolutions and conform themselves accordingly.

The Committee Appointed the 24th. of February last to examine the several Laws of this Province respecting Infectious Distempers — Report — That under the present situation and Circumstances of the Town, it does not appear to them to be expedient to apply to [583.] The General Court for any further Act — Which Report being read, the Question was put “Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affirmative —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted that the Town

Treasurer be and he hereby is directed to retain in his hands the whole of the Money lately granted the Town by the General Court, excepting what may be required on Account of the Small Pox, untill the further Order of the Town. —

Voted, that all Matters and Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the General Town Meeting in May next to be then considered of and acted upon —

Voted, unanimously, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Fanueil Hall on Tuesday the 15th Day of May Anno Domini 1764.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. M^r. Cooper.

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read.

[584.] Sundry Laws enjoin'd to be read at this Meeting, were accordingly read —

Joshua Henshaw Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at Concord upon Wednesday the 30th. Day of May Current, and in order thereto to consider and ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected; accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the choice of four Representatives; and then it was declared by the Selectmen that no Vote will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 O'Clock.

The Votes being brought in, the number of Voters were found to be 449, and upon sorting them it appear'd that the four following Gentlemen were chose — Viz^t.

Royal Tyler Esq. - - - - -	420
James Otis Esq. - - - - -	423
Thomas Cushman Esq. - - - - -	373
Oxenbridge Thacher Esq. - - - - -	430

The choice of Representatives being over, and declared by the Selectmen; the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring ir their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant; accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appear'd that the Hon^{ble} Thomas Hubbard Esq. was chosen —

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 15. 1764.

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their Annual Meeting the 10th. Day of May 1763 desiring the Selectmen to visit the several publick Schools in the Town, and to invite such Gentlemen to [585.] Accompany them therein as they should think proper,

and to Report thereon — We the Subscribers accordingly attended that Service on Wednesday the 29th. of June last, accompanied by the following Gentlemen Viz^t. —

His Excellency the Governor
 The Hon^{ble}. John Osborn Esq.
 Thomas Hubbard Esq.
 Harrison Gray Esq.
 Thomas Hancock Esq.
 Thomas Flucker Esq.

The Representatives of the Town
 The Overseers of the Poor.

Joseph Jackson Esq.
 Arnold Wells Esq.
 Byfield Lyde Esq.
 Nathaniel Bethune Esq.
 John Winthrop Esq.
 Leonard Jervis Esq.
 Benjamin Hallowell Esq.
 M^r. Treasurer Jeffries
 Nicholas Boylston Esq.
 M^r. James Perkins
 John Grant Esq.
 Jeremiah Green Esq.

Mess^{rs}. Thomas Gray
 Samuel Phillips Savage
 Joseph Waldo
 Jonathan Clark
 Ichabod Jones
 Edward Foster
 Samuel Downe
 Benjamin Parker

[586.] Rev^d. Samuel Checkley Jun^r
 Samuel Cooper
 Andrew Elliot
 Mather Byles
 Samuel Mather
 Ebenezer Pemberton
 Samuel Checkley
 D^{rs}: Jonathan Mayhew
 Charles Chansey
 Joseph Sewall

And found the South Grammar School had 135 Scholars — the North Grammar School 53 Scholars — the North Writing School 174 Scholars, the South Writing School 230 Scholars, the Writing School in Queen Street 238 Scholars, all in very good order —

JOHN SCOLLAY	} Selectmen of Boston.
BENJAMIN AUSTIN	
SAMUEL SEWALL	
NATHANIEL THWING	

Voted, that the above Report be accepted, and that the Gentlemⁿ — the Selectmen be desired to visit the publick Schools the Year ensuing, and that they desire such Gentlemen to accom-

pany them therein as they shall think convenient; and that they Report thereon

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M.

3 O'Clock P. M: The Town Meet according to Adjournment.

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants for Paving part of Moon Court was read and debated, whereupon Voted that the same be dismissed —

[587.] The Petition of sundry Inhabitants for Paving part of Cambridge Street was read, and after Debate had thereon

Voted, that the same be dismissed —

The Petition of sundry Inhabitants for paving part of Fish Street which was referred to this Meeting, being again read & considered — The Question was put — Whether the Prayer of the Petition be granted — Passed in the Negative — It was then Voted that the same be dismiss'd.

The Petition of John Hill and Samuel Wentworth Esq. respecting the damage that part of the Neck leased to them has sustain'd in the late Storm was read, and after Debate had thereon —

Voted, that Deacon Jonathan Williams

James Otis Esq.

John Rowe Esq.

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

Nathaniel Bethune Esq.

Henry Loyde Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take this Petition into consideration — view the Premises — take a Plan of the same — ascertain the quantity and quality of the Lands — examine the Expences of the Lessees, and Report as soon as may be their Opinion relative thereto —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due. and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Peleg Wiswall for his Salary as Master of the North Gramar [588.] School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Samuel Holyoke for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Procter for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter. —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds, be allowed and

paid unto Mr. John Tileston for his Salary as Master of the North Writing School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.—

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. Abia Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.—

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.—

[589.] Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. Ephraim Langdon for his Salary as Usher of the North Grammar School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.—

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Vinal for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in the Common for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.—

Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. John Tileston Master of the North Writing School for providing an Assistant the Year ensuing, the same be paid him quarterly, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.—

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid out of the Town Treasury unto Mr. David Jeffries for his services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office.—

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and hereby is directed and empower'd to allow the several School-Masters Interest on the Sums due to them from the Date of their Warrants to the Time of payment.—

That Clause in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “ Whether Instructions shall “ be given to the Representatives that may be chose ” was read — and after Debate had thereon, Voted, that

Richard Dana Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams
John Ruddock Esq.
Nathaniel Bethune Esq.
Joseph Green Esq.

[590.]

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to draw up said Instructions, and that they Report a Draft of the same at the Adjournment of this Meeting —

Royal Tyler Esq. in the Name of the Overseers acquainted the Town that 1025 of the poor Inhabitants had passed through the Small Pox by Inoculation under their inspection and care a number of whom had been Inoculated, supplied with

Medicines and attended Gratis by the Physicians as follows —
 Viz.

D ^r . Kast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
D ^r . Sprague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71
D ^r . Church & Lord	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
D ^r . Roberts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
D ^r . Jackson of P. N. Hampshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
D ^r . Sylvester Gardner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
D ^r . Gardner & Barnett	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
D ^r . Clark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
D ^r . John Perkins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
D ^r . Whitworth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
D ^r . Youngust	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
D ^r . Bulfinch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
D ^r . Pecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
D ^r . Doubt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
D ^r . Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
D ^r . Loyd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
D ^r . Grozier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
D ^r . William Perkins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
D ^r . Pynchon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4

In all - - - 526

Whereupon it was Voted unanimously, that the Thanks of the [591.] Town be and hereby are given those Gentlemen Physicians, who in this Season of difficulty and distress have generously Inoculated and carried through the Small Pox Gratis so considerable a number of the poor Inhabitants —

The Town entred upon the consideration of that part of the Warrant which relates to the clearing of the Town of the Small Pox and being informed that many Persons now Inoculated and sick of the said Distemper do come from other Towns to this for that purpose

Voted, that the Town esteem it a great grievance that such Persons obtrude themselves to perpetuate a Distemper among us, which the Town are taking every Measure to clear themselves from and therefore

Voted, that the Selectmen take every legal Measure to remove any Persons from the Town who shall after this date obtrude themselves in the like manner upon the Town, and that the Names of such Persons who shall hereafter obtrude themselves as aforesaid, the Towns they come from, and the Places in this Town where they are harboured, shall be published in the Papers, and all the Inhabitants are desired upon any such Persons coming into the Town, to give immediate notice thereof to the Selectmen —

That Clause in the Warrant (Viz.) “ Whether Application shall be made to the General Court for relief under the present distress'd Circumstances of the Town by means of the Small Pox ” was read and debated, whereupon Voted, that the Committee to draw up Instructions, have an Instruction to our Representatives, that they as soon as may be apply to the General Court, for such relief as they in their Wisdom may Judge meet —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, the Question was put. (Viz^t.) “Whether the Representatives shall be Instructed to make Application to the General Court the approaching Session for an Act to be provided [592.] Which shall impower the Selectmen to remove any Persons who shall presume to come from other Towns into this either infected with the Small Pox, or with design to receive the Infection—Passed in the Affermative—It was then Voted that the Committee Appointed to draw up Instructions to our Representatives, be desired to instruct them on this head accordingly.

The Committee Appointed the 14th. of March 1763 to examine the Accounts of David Jeffries Town Treasurer have attended that service, and find the same right cast and well vouched, in which he charges himself with Sundry Fines Rents and other Incomes of the Town as also with the Tax of £4600—all which amount to £6960 ,, 9 ,, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry abatements made the Collectors amounting to £971 ,, 11 ,, 6. by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3161 ,, 14 ,, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ of which he has paid £2296 ,, 12 ,, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$, and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the Charges of the Alms house amounting to £2665 ,, 0 ,, 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ of which he has paid £1537 ,, 3 ,, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ the whole amounting to £6932 ,, 17 ,, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ including the Balance of Old Account—The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very particular manner, and have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers for the amount of their Drafts and every other branch of publick charge all amounting as above to the Sum of £6932 ,, 17 ,, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ as by Account of Town Treasury in the Town Treasurers Books Balance whereof being £27 ,, 11 ,, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ is carried to the C^t. of new Account.

Which Report and Account being read ; Voted that the same be and hereby is accepted —

Voted, that the Sum of Seven thousand Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for relief of the Poor and defraying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year —

[593.] The Town took into consideration that Clause in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “Whether a further Time shall be allowed the Assessors to set for the abatement of such Persons Taxes, as by the Small Pox have been prevented from applying in season” whereupon

Voted, that the Assessors be and are hereby directed and impower'd; that fourteen Days after the Selectmen have declared that the Town is free from the present Infection ; they shall set fourteen Days longer for the Abatement of such Person's Taxes as had removed out of Town or were sick of the Small Pox, at the Time set for the Assessors to make Abatements, at the last March Meeting —

The Town took into consideration the Petition of M^r. John Vinal Usher to the South Writing School, that an allowance may be made him, in consideration of the Straits and Difficultys he has been reduced to by means of the Small Pox — After debate had thereon

Voted, that the Sum of Fifteen Pounds be and hereby is allowed the said M^r. Vinal, for the reasons above mentioned; the same to be paid him by a Draft on the Treasury —

That Clause in the Warrant. (Viz^t.) “To consider what Measures may be proper for the preservation of Beacon Hill.” was read, whereupon. Voted, that

Thomas Hancock Esq.
William Phillips Esq.
Joseph Sherburne Esq.
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
James Otis Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to take this Matter into consideration, and Report as soon as may be —

Upon Consideration of that Clause in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “Whether any Methods shall be taken for the better regulating the Market, and the Land Adjacent” — Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to put [594.] Up one or more Temporary Barrs

Voted, That this Meeting be Adjourned to Thursday the 24th. of this Instant 3 O’Clock P: M.

Thursday May 24th. 3 O’Clock P: M: Met According to Adjournment.

The Committee Appointed the 15th. Instant to consider what Measures may be proper for the preservation of Beacon Hill — Report — That they had repaired to Beacon Hill, view’d the same and where of Opinion, that it is Necessary for the preservation thereof to have the High Way that runs between the Land of Thomas Hancock Esq. and the Land of M^r. William Mullineux to y^e. Land of said Thomas Hancock on the North side of said Hill, and the Avenues thereto shut up and covered with proper Manure, and sown with Hay Seed till it is brought to a good Sword. And whereas the said Hill is in very great danger of being destroy’d by Thomas Hodson and others digging Gravel on his Lot on the North side of said Hill, and there is no prospect of the Towns being able to purchase his Land, or to prevent his digging without the interposition of the General Court; they are of Opinion that it would be adviseable to apply to the Assembly for an Act to prevent the destruction of Beacon Hill, and that the Representatives be Instructed to use their influence to procure such an Act — Which Report being read, and debate had thereon — the Question was put — Whether the Town will accept said Report — Passed in the Affermative —

Voted, that the Petition of John Hill & Samuel Wentworth Esq. relative to the damage that part of the Neck Leased to them has sustain’d in the late Storm, be referr’d over to next Town Meeting for further Consideration —

[595.] The Committee Appointed the 15 Inst^t. to prepare Instructions for the Representatives, Report the following Draft —

Viz^t. —

To Royal Tyler, James Otis, Thomas Cushing and Oxenbridge
Thacher Esq^r. —

Gentlemen

You being chose by the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Town of Boston to Represent them in the General Assembly the ensuing Year, affords you the strongest Testimony of that Confidence which they place in your Integrity and Capasity — By this choice they have delegated to you the power of acting in their Publick Concerns in general as your own prudence shall direct you, always reserving to themselves the Constitutional Right of expressing their Mind and giving you such Instruction upon particular Matters, as they at any Time shall Judge proper.

We therefore your Constituents take this Opportunity to declare our Just Expectations from you —

That you will constantly use your power and influence in maintaining the invaluable Rights and Privileges of the Province, of which this Town is so great apart; As well as those Rights which are derived to us by the Royal Charter, as those which being prior to and independent on it, we hold essentially as Freeborn Subjects of G^t. Britain

That you will endeavor as far as you shall be able to preserve that independence in the House of Representatives, which characterises a Free People, and the want of which may in a great measure prevent the happy effects of a free Government; Cultivating as you shall have Opportunity, that Harmony and Union there, which is ever desirable to good Men when founded in Principles of Virtue and Publick Spirit; and guarding against any undue weight which may lend to disadjust that critical Ballance upon which our happy Constitution and the Blessings of it do depend — And for this purpose we particularly recommend it to you to use your endeavors to have [596.] A Law passed whereby the Seats of such Gentlemen as shall accept of Posts of Profit from the Crown or the Governor while they are Members of the House shall be vacated agreeable to an Act of the British Parliament, till their Constituents shall have y^e. Opportunity of Re-Electing them if they please — or of returning others in their room —

Being Members of the Legislative Body you will have a special regard to the Morals of this People, which are the Bases of Publick Happiness; and endeavor to have such Laws made if any are still wanting as shall be best adapted to secure them; And we particularly desire you carefully to look into the Laws of Excise, that if the Virtue of the People is endangered by the multiplicity of Oaths therein enjoin'd or their Trade and Business is unreasonably impeded or embarrass'd thereby the grievance may be redressed —

As the preservation of Morals as well as property & right so much depends upon the impartial distribution of Justice agreeable to good and wholesome Law; and as the Judges of the Land do depend upon the Free Grant of the General Assembly for support; it is incumbent upon you at all Times to give your Voice for their honourable maintenance so long as they having in their Minds an indifferance to all other Affairs, shall devote themselves wholly to the duties of their own Department, & the further study of the Law, by which their Customs Precedents Proceedings and Determinations are adjusted and limited.

You will remember that this Province has been at very great Expence in carrying on the late Warr, and that it still ly under a very grievous burden of Debt, you will therefore use your utmost endeavor to promote Publick frugality as one Means to lessen the Publick Debt, and we recommend as worthy your particular attention, whether any Expences can now be necessary to maintain the Garrison service on [597.] Our Eastern Frontier; considering that we are now in a state of profound peace: Our French Enemies being totally subdued, and there being hardly any remains of the Indian Tribes ever again to anoy us —

You will Joyn in any Proposals that may be made for the better Cultivating the Lands & improving the Husbandry of this Province: And as you Represent a Town which lives by its Trade we expect in a very particular manner that you make it the Object of your attention to support our Commerce in all its Just Rights, to vindicate it from all unreasonable Impositions and promote its prosperity. Our Trade has for a long Time laboured under great Discouragements, and it is with the deepest concern that we see such further Difficultys coming upon it, as will reduce it to the lowest Ebb, if not totally obstruct and ruin it. We cannot help expressing our surprize, that when so early notice was given by the Agent of the intention of the Ministry to burthen us with new Taxes, so little regard was had to this most interesting Matter, that the Court was not even called together to consult about it till the latter end of the Year, the consequence of which was, that Instructions could not be sent to the Agent, though solisited by him, till the Evil had got beyond an easy remedie, there is now no room for further delay; We therefore expect that you will use your earliest endeavors in the General Assembly that such Methods may be taken as will effectually prevent their proceedings against us. By a proper Representation we apprehend it may easily be made to appear that such severitys will prove detrimental to Great Britain itself, upon which Account we have reason to hope that an Application even for a repeal of the Act, should it be already passed will be successfull. It is the Trade of the Collonys that render them beneficial to their Mother Country: Our Trade as it is now and always has been conducted centers in Great Britain, and in return for her Manufactures affords her more ready Cash, beyond any Comparison, that can possibly be expected by the most sanguine promoters of these [598.] Extraordinary Methods. We are in short ultimately yielding large supplies to the Revenues of the Mother Country while we are labouring for a very moderate Subsistence for ourselves. But if our Trade is to be curtail'd in its most valuable branches, & burdens beyond possible bearings, laid upon that which is suffer'd to remain, we shall so far be able to take off the Manufactures of Great Britain, that it will be scarce possible for us to earn our Bread. But what still hightens our Apprehensions is that those unexpected proceedings may be preparatory to new Taxations upon us; For if our Trade may be taxed why not our Lands? Why not the produce of our Lands and every Thing we possess or make use of? This we apprehend annihilates our Charter Right to Govern and Tax ourselves —

It strikes at our British Privileges which as we have never forfeited them we hold in common with our Fellow Subjects who are Natives of Britain: If Taxes are laid upon us in any shape without ever having a Legal Representation where they are laid, are we not reduced from the Character of Free Subjects to the miserable state of tributary Slaves —

We therefore earnestly recommend it to you to use your utmost endeavors, to obtain in the General Assembly all necessary Instructions and advice to our Agent at this most critical Juncture that while he is setting forth the unshaken Loyalty of this Province and this Town — its unrivalled Exertions in supporting His Majestys Government and Rights in this part of his Dominion — its acknowledged Dependence upon and Subordination to Great Britain and the ready submission of its Merchants to all Just and necessary Regulations of Trade, he may be able in the most humble and pressing manner to remonstrate for us all those Rights and Privileges which Justly belong to us either by Charter or Birth.

As his Majestys other Northern American Colonys are embark'd with us in this most important Bottom, we further desire you to use your Endeavors, that their weight may be added [599.] To that of this Province; that by the united Applications of all who are Aggrieved, All may happily obtain Redress —

All which is submitted &

By Order of the Committee

RICHARD DANA

The foregoing Report having been read several Times, and Debate had thereon — the Question was put — Whether the Town will accept of said Draft of Instructions — Passed in the Affirmative —

The Committee do further Report the following Votes —

Whereas it hath pleased Almighty God to permit the Small Pox to prevail in this Town, whereby the Inhabitants have been great Sufferers, as well by the extraordinary Expence it hath Occasioned, as by loss of Business; therefore Voted that the Representatives be desired in behalf of the Town humbly to move that the General Assembly would afford us such relief under our distress as they in their great Goodness shall think proper —

Whereas it is conceived that the Selectmen of the Town are not sufficiently impower'd by the Laws already in being to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent the Inhabitants of other Towns from bringing and spreading Infectious Distempers amongst us; therefore Voted that the Representatives be desired to use their Endeavors to obtain such additional Power to be given to the Selectmen as the General Assembly in their Wisdom shall think proper to Invest them with —

The above Report having been read — The Question was put — Whether the Town will accept thereof — Passed in y^e. Affirmative.

Voted, that all Matters and Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting, be and hereby are referred over to the next General Town Meeting —

[600.] Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby

are given to the Honorable Thomas Hubbard Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Thursday the 24th. Day of May Anno Domini 1764 —

The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - was read.

James Otis Esq^r. was chosen Moderator by a Hand Vote

The Petition of a considerable number of Inhabitants that the sense of the Town may be known respecting Inoculating at Noddles Island: And that such steps may be taken as will effectually prevent any Inoculating Hospitals being Erected in this Town, or the Limits of it — was read — Also Letters from the Selectmen of Chelsea, and the Docters Perkins and Loyd —

And after the Debate had thereon —

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to withdraw their leave of Inoculating at Noddles Island, and that the Hospital there be discontinued; And that the Town allow of no Inoculating Hospital within the Limits and Confines of the Town of Boston —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourn'd to Monday next 3 o'Cl. P.M.

[601.] Voted, that the Notifications of the Adjournment be printed and dispers'd among the Inhabitants —

Monday May 28th. 3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment —

The Committee Appointed the 24th. Instant to take into consideration the Pctition of John Hill and Samuel Wentworth Esq^{rs} — Reported which Report being again read and debate had thereon the Question was put — “ Whether the Town will accept of said Report — Passed in the Negative —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, That the Selectmen be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to treat with the Lessees of the Land on each side of the Neck, and Report the Terms upon which they will give up their Lessees as soon as may be —

The Committee upon the Clause in the Warrant — Viz^t. — To consider whether any more effectual Measures shall be taken for the preventing Chimnies so frequently taken Fire — Report, That the Town may be effectually secured from danger by Chimnies taking Fire, by force of a By Law now in being, if duly executed; by which the Selectmen are impowred to appoint one or more suitable Persons to sweep the Chimnies within the Town —

That in Order to put said Law into execution, it is necessary to make it the Business of some particular Person, who should be Obliged and suitably encouraged thereto —

And whereas it appears that the sweeping of the Chimnies of the Town duly at the Rates fixed in said By Law, may afford a very

profitable living to any Person, who should have an exclusive right to the same; the Committee are therefore of Opinion that the whole benefit thereof be offer'd to Sale: And that the Person who shall bid the most be [602.] Appointed by the Selectmen solely to do said Business: The Undertaker giving Bond with sufficient Sureties, for the faithful discharge of his duty, and to be subject to the following Conditions —

First, That he shall not demand of any Householder to sweep his Chimnie at any other Time, but from One Hour after Sun Rise to 11 O'Clock A: M: and from 2 O'clock P: M: to Sunset. And that his Wages for Sweeping shall not exceed the Rates fixed in said By-Law.

Secondly, that he shall sweep the Chimney of every Kitchen or Room where Victuals are usually cook'd, five Times and every other Chimney where Fire is commonly kept, twice in the Year —

Thirdly, that he shall constantly keep in the Business at his own Expence not less than four able Bodied and faithful Men in the Judgement of the Selectmen: And if at any Time he shall be deficient herein, the Selectmen shall Appoint Men in their room, who shall have the right and benefit of sweeping at the Rates aforesaid, till he hath supply'd his number as aforesaid —

Fourthly, That he shall keep a true Account of the number of Funnells he shall sweep, and the Names of the Persons severally Occupying the Tenements which he shall lay before the Selectmen Quarterly, and upon Oath with regard to the whole at the end of y^e. Year if required —

The Committee are further of Opinion, that all Fines recover'd of any Householder by virtue of said By-Law, shall be for the sole benefit of the Person or Persons Appointed by the Selectmen, and for his further Encouragement —

All which is submitted

JOSHUA HENSHAW. p^r Order.

The above Report having been read several Times, and debate had thereon — the Question was put — Whether the Town will accept thereof — Passed in the Affirmative —

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are Appointed [603.] A Committee to carry into Execution the Report of the Committee relative to Beacon Hill so far as relates to shutting up the Passages, Sowing the Ground with Hay Seed &c —

The Town brought in their Votes for a Constable in the room of Samuel McClure who had declined serving, when it appear'd that Stephen Symms was chosen into that Office —

Voted, That all Matters and Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting, be and hereby are referred over to the next General Town Meeting —

Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in Public Town Meet-

ing Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 6th. Day of June Anno Dom. 1764.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. M^r. Pemberton.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read.

The Precept for Choosing one Representative in the room [604.] Of the Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq. lately chosen into his Majestys Council - - - was read. —

Voted, That the Town will proceed to the choice of a suitable Person to Represent them at the Great and General Court the remaining part of this Year in the room of the Honourable Royal Tyler Esq.

The Selectmen having declared to the Inhabitants that the Poll would be closed at 12 O Clock. The Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes for a Representative and upon counting & sorting of them it appear'd that there was no choice — The Inhabitants were desired to withdraw again, and bring in their Votes which being accordingly done, it was found that the number of Voters were 527. and that M^r. Thomas Gray had 352 Votes; Whereupon it was declared by the Selectmen that said M^r. Gray was duly Elected.

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town legally qualified in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 13th. Day of August Anno Dom. 1764.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting was read, as also the Constables Return on said Warrant, signed by each Constable and setting forth that they had legally warned all the Inhabitants of their respective Wards of the present Meeting; but notwithstanding said [605.] Return it was made appear, that some of them had neglected to warn great numbers of the Inhabitants who were qualified as the Law directs: As in consequence of this neglect, the Town could not proceed legally on the Business of the Warrant.

The Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Thursday the 16th. Day of August Anno Dom. 1764.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read.

James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator by a Hand Vote —

The Petition of a number of a number of the Inhabitants respecting M^r. James Lovel Usher of the South Grammar School — read.

The Proposals of Samuel Wentworth Esq. relative to the Lands on Boston Neck, together with the Report of the Committee on that affair, were read; After debate had thereon, the following Question

was put — Whether the said Report be Recommended — Passed in y^e. Affermative.

Moved and seconded, that the Committee relative to Boston Neck be desired to Report next March Meeting the Terms upon which John Hill and Samuel Wentworth Esq. will give up their Leases of the Land on each side of the Neck, and the Question being accordingly [606.] Put — Passed in the Negative — It was then Voted that the Committee be desired to Report the same next Town Meeting.

The Petition of a number of the Inhabitants representing, that M^r. James Lovell Usher of the South Grammar School is about leaving the Town for want of a competent support: And therefore praying that some Measures may be taken, by raising his Salary, or otherwise, to retain in the service of the Town a Person so well qualified for the Education of Youth, was considered, and a Motion made thereon; that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be given M^r. James Lovell as a Gratuity for his services the present Year, and as an encouragement to remain in the service of y^e Town The Question being accordingly put — Passed in y^e Affermative —

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t) “To determine what steps shall be taken in order to comply with the Condition upon which the late Hon^{ble} Thomas Hancock Esq. has left a Legacy to the Town of Boston towards Erecting a House for the reception of such unhappy Persons as it shall please God in his Providence to deprive of their Reason — was considered & thereupon

Voted, That James Otis Esq.

John Rowe Esq.

The Hon^{ble} Royal Tyler Esq.

Ezek^l Goldthwait Esq.

The Hon^{ble} Thomas Flucker Esq.

Nathaniel Bethune Esq.

Samuel Sewall Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

John Barrett Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to take this Matter into consideration and Report the next Town Meeting what they apprehend best for the Town to do thereon — It was further [607.] Voted, That said Committee be desired to take into Consideration and Report at the same Time what they apprehend the most suitable Method in which the Town may testify the sense they have of the goodness of that Hon^{ble} Gentleman expressed by so truly Charitable and important a Donation —

Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting, for dispatching the Business thereof. —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 24th Day of Septem^r Anno Domini 1764.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - Read.

The Hon^{ble} Thomas Hubbard Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, but as he could not attend by reason of a great Cold, the Town proceeded to bring in their Votes for another Moderator & upon sorting them it appeared, that the Hon^{ble} Andrew Oliver Esq. was chosen.

The Selectmen a Committee relative to Land on Boston [608.] Neck — Report — That agreeable to a Vote of the Town at their Meeting the 13th of August last they had received Proposals from Coll^o John Hill and Samuel Wentworth Esq. in writing, which they lay before the Town for their Consideration —

M^r Hills Proposal is as follows —

To the Selectmen of the Town of Boston.

Gentlemen

As the Town of Boston at their last Meeting Voted, That you the Selectmen be desired to know of Mess^{rs} Wentworth and Hill, what Sum they will quit their Leases of Boston Neck for, and to Report the same at next Town Meeting — the Sum I would quit my Lease for is Four hundred Pounds lawful Money, and if the Town please to accept thereof I oblige myself to give up the Leases —

Boston Septem^r 16. 1764. —

JOHN HILL —

M^r Hills Proposal having been read and debate had thereon, the Question was put (Viz^t) Whether the Town will accept of Coll^o Hills Lease upon the Terms he has proposed — Passed in the Negative —

M^r Wentworths Proposal was as follows —

To the Selectmen of the Town of Boston —

Gentlemen

In consequence of our repeated Conferences relating my Lease from the Town of Land on Boston Neck, have concluded if Town will please to condescend to pay me Five hundred Pounds, and Vote the same at the ensuing Town Meeting, to give up my Lease — Boston Sep^r 12. 1764.

SAMUEL WENTWORTH —

M^r Wentworths Proposal having been read and debate had thereon — the Question was put — Viz^t. — “Whether the Town will accept of M^r Wentworths Lease upon the Terms [609.] He has proposed to deliver up the same —

Passed in the Affermative.

The Town having taken into consideration what would be the best Method for raising the Five hundred Pounds now granted Samuel Wentworth Esq. for the surrender of his Lease of Lands on Boston Neck — It was Voted, That the Sum of Five hundred Pounds granted as aforesaid be added to the next Tax Bill that goes out.

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t) “To consider what is necessary for the Town to do on the Land on Boston Neck” was debated — whereupon Voted, That the Selectmen be desired to receive Proposals from any Persons who may incline to make them,

relative to Repairing, Leasing or Purchasing the Lands, lately Leased to Samuel Wentworth Esq. whose Lease is now purchased by the Town: And that they Report the same —

That Article in the Warrant. (Viz^t.) “To choose a Meet Person or Persons as Agents or Attorneys to prosecute for or defend the Town in such Cases wherein there is not yet any Person or Persons legally vested with Authority for that purpose” — was considered; and the Question then put — Whether any Agent or Agents shall now be chosen — Passed in the Affermative — It was further Voted that the Selectmen be and hereby are Appointed Agents for the Town, for the purposes mentioned in said Article of the Warrant —

The Town having been served with a Copy of the Petition which Benjamin Hallowell Esq. has presented the Great and General Court, for an alteration of the run of Bread Street &^c — the same was read, and after Debate had thereon, it was Voted that the Selectmen be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to take that Matter under consideration, and Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting.

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourn'd to Tuesday the ninth [610.] Day of October next 10 O'Clock, A : M :

Tuesday the 9th of October 10 O'Clock A : M : Met according to Adjournment —

The Selectmen a Committee Appointed the 24th of Septem^r last, to consider the Petition of Benjamin Hallowell Esq. to the General Court praying that Bread Street should cross Milk Street, and be continued up to his House &^c — Report — They have made all necessary enquiry into the Matter of it, and find that the present Street from Milk Street leading along said Hallowells Ship Yard into that part of Battery March Street which runs from Hallowells House to M^r Peck's, if enlarged according to the intention of the Committee of the General Court will be detrimental to said Hallowell, as he sets forth in his Petition, and that the Street which said Hallowell proposes, if it be run according to the Plan herewith exhibited, will accommodate the Town as well or better than the Street as it now runs: Therefore they advise the Town not to oppose the same: But by way of answer to said Petition, they would propose all proper cautions might be suggested, that the Proprietors of private property, who are thereby endamaged, may be reasonably indemnified: That the Terms engaged in his Petition be fully complied with; and that he further engage to return the southerly end of the proposed Street full forty feet wide into that part of Battery March Street which leads from his House to M^r Pecks Corner at his own cost — Also that he make the whole of said new Street; and the return above mentioned passable for Carriages, and take up the Pavement in the Old Street and deliver the Stones on the Spot towards paving the new Street at his own Charge. On such Terms the Select-Men apprehend it for the Interest of the Town to consent, that said Hallowell should have the right to all that part of Battery March Street from the South side of Milk Street leading along said [611.] Hallowells Ship Yard to the North side of Battery March Street which runs

East from said Hallowells House to M^r Pecks Corner; preserving Milk Street Forty feet wide down to the North East Corner of that part of Battery March Street which runs along said Hallowells Ship Yard, where Milk Street, was said Battery March Street now run according to the projection of the above mentioned Committee, would have been bounded by M^r Hallowells Ship Yard and the Town Slip which runs in breadth fifteen feet down to the Sea from the bottom of Milk Street — Which Report being read and debate had thereon — The Question was put — Whether the Town will accept said Report — Passed in the Affermative.

Voted, that the Selectmen be a Committee to draw up an answer to M^r Hallowells Petition agreeable to said Reports and that they Annex a Plan of the Land, and a Copy of the Report to their answer

Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honorable Andrew Oliver Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday 24th of December A D. 1764.

[612.] The Warrant for calling the Meeting . . . read.

The Hon^{ble} Thomas Hubbard Esq. was chosen Moderator by a Hand Vote —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for a Collector of Taxes for the present Year in the room of Gyles Harris Esq. who has resigned, and upon sorting them it appeared that there was no choice — The Inhabitants then withdrew and brought in their Votes again for a Collector when M^r Sampson Salter was chosen a Collector of Taxes for the present Year —

Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honourable Thomas Hubbard Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting, for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved

[613.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 11th Day of March Anno Domini. 1765 —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Samuel Checkley Jun^r.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting . . . read —

Sundry Laws enjoined to be read at this Meeting were accordingly read —

The Honourable James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting and took the Oaths respecting the paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments, of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island, as required by an Act of this Province —

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted, it appeared that —

Joshua Henshaw
Joseph Jackson
Benjamin Austin
Samuel Sewall
Nathaniel Thwing
John Ruddock
John Hancock . . . Esq^r.

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing —

John Scollay Esq. one of the late Selectmen, before the above choice desired the Moderator to acquaint the Town that he was highly obliged to them for the Honor done him in choosing him a Selectman for Eleven Years successively; but that his Affairs not permitting him to serve any longer in that Office, he was desirous that his Name might not be put into new List —

[614.] Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the said John Scollay Esq. for his faithful services as a Selectman a number of Years past —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appeared that —

John Barratt Esq.
The Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq.
M^r. Benjamin Dolbear
Isaac Smith Esq.
M^r. Jonathan Mason
M^r. Henry Bromfield
Meletiah Bourn Esq.
Joseph Gardner Esq.
M^r. William Whitwell
Cap^t. Benjamin Hammatt
M^r. Henderson Inches
M^r. Ebenezer Storer

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing, and took the Oaths required by Law —

Upon a Motion made and seconded it was Voted That it be determined by Yea's and Nay's at 4 O'Clock Afternoon Whether the Town will choose any Person to serve in the Office of Wardens the Year ensuing —

Voted, That this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M: —

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournm^t —

The Votes were brought in for Town Treasurer, and upon sorting them it appeared that M^r. David Jeffries was chosen and having taken the Oath relating to his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his duty, which Oaths were Administred [615.] To him by Richard Dana Esq.

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Clerks of the Market, and upon sorting them it appeared that —

Mess^{rs}. Benjamin Edes
Edward Walker

John Cunningham
 Thomas Brown
 Ezra Collins
 Joseph Tyler (all sworn)
 Edward Blanchard
 Edward Jackson
 Caleb Blanchard
 William Bant
 Joseph Henderson
 James Perkins

were chose Clerks of the Market, for the Year ensuing —

The Town having determined that the Question agreed upon in the Forenoon to be put— Viz: — “ Whether the Town will choose Wardens for the Year ensuing ” shall be desided by Yea’s and Nay’s the Votes were accordingly brought in when it appeared that there were 715 Votes. 437 whereof were Yeas and 278 Nays —

The Inhabitants having been ordered to withdraw and bring in their Votes for Twelve Wardens; a reference was called for— whereupon the Question was put — “ Whether the choice of Wardens shall now come on — Passed in the Affermative —

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them it appeared, that —

M^r. John Winslow
 Deacon Benjamin Church
 Cap^t. Hopestill Foster
 Richard Boynton Esq.
 M^r. Thomas Waldo
 M^r. Samuel Whitwell
 M^r. James Richardson
 M^r. Francis Shaw
 Deacon Jonathan Brown
 M^r. Alexander Hill
 M^r. Thomas Crafts
 M^r. Nathaniel Appleton

[616.]

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing —

Adjourned to Tuesday the 12 Instant 9 O’Clock Before Noon —

Tuesday Morning 9 O’Clock The Town Met according to Adjournment —

The Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mess ^{rs} . William Fairfield					
John Kneeland	-	-	-	-	Sworn
Benjamin Church					d ^o .
Belcher Noyes Esq					d ^o .
William Torrey					d ^o .
John Greenough					excused
Samuel Downe	-	-	-	-	d ^o .

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing —

Mr. John Gray was chosen Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing —

	Mess ^{rs} .	William Nichols	-	-	-	-	-	sworn
		Clement Collins	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Jacob Thayer	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Joseph Edmunds	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		John Greenough	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Isaac Vergoose	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Henry Allen	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		John Sergeant	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
[617.]		Richard Walker	-	-	-	-	-	Sworn
		Andrew Symms	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		William Payne	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Samuel Dyer	-	-	-	-	-	Excused

were chose Surveyors of Boards and Shingles for the Year ensuing.

	Mess ^{rs} .	Obediah Low	-	-	-	-	-	Sworn
		Henry Allen	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Samuel Dyer	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		John Dyer	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Benjamin Andrew Esq	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Onesip ^s Tileston Esq	-	-	-	-	-	Excused

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing —

	Mess ^{rs}	Samuel Bangs
		William Andrews
		Isaac Bird
		William Scott
		Ebenezer McIntosh

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing —

	Mess ^{rs}	Nathaniel Gardner
		Samuel Whitwell

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing —

	Mess ^{rs}	Peter Cotta	-	-	-	-	-	Sworn
		Manasseh Masters	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Joseph Dyer	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		John Harskins	-	-	-	-	-	
		David Spear	-	-	-	-	-	
		Nathan Spear						
		Jonathan Jenkins						
		Samuel Treat						
		Robert Breck Jun ^r						
		Job Wheelwright	-	-	-	-	-	Sworn
		Joshua Pico	-	-	-	-	-	
[618.]	Mess ^{rs}	Benjamin Salt	-	-	-	-	-	Sworn
		Paul Baxter	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		John Owen	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Thomas Knox	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Samuel White	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Edward Cowell	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Edward Potter	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Peter Ellis	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
		Timothy Pease	d ^o .

	Robert Treat	-	-	-	-	-	d°.
were chose	Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing	—					
	Mess ^{rs} David Simons	-	-	-	-	-	Sworn
	Thomas Curtis	-	-	-	-	-	d°.
were chose	Hogreeves for the Year ensuing						
	M ^r . Edward Curtis	-	-	-	-	-	d°.
was chosen	Hayward for the Year ensuing	—					
	Mess ^{rs} David Wheeler	-	-	-	-	-	Sworn
	Alexander Edwards						
	Benjamin Wheeler						d°.
	Levy Jennings						d°.
	Robert Hews						d°.
	Thomas Parker						
	William Daws						
	Thomas Hitchburne						
	Edward Winter	-	-	-	-	-	d°.
	Joseph Nowell						d°.
	Elias Thomas Jun ^r						d°.
	Richard Salter						d°.

were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted that

John Ruddock
 Thomas Marshall
 Foster Hutchinson. Esq.

[619.] Be and hereby are appointed a Committee to consider what further provision is necessary to support the Scavengers in a due Execution of their Office — and that they Report next May Meeting —

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds be remitted out of the Ten Pound Fine, to such Persons as shall be chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing, and shall decline serving —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Constables; the Persons chose into that Office and sworn are —

Mess^{rs} Augustus Hail
 Nathaniel Thayer
 Francis Salmon
 Hezekiah Usher
 John Down
 Samuel Harris
 James Thomas
 Benjamin Clarke
 Joseph Foye
 Benjamin Barbour
 Edward Baker
 Elisha Byles

M^r. Henry Bromfield chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the Year ensuing, having acquainted the Town that he could not serve them in that capacity, as he was soon to remove from this Place — Voted unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the said M^r. Bromfield for his faithful services as an Overseer a number of Years past —

John Avery Esq.

was chosen an Overseer of the Poor in the room of M^r Henry Bromfield who has resigned —

620. Voted, that Thomas Cushing Esq.

John Rowe Esq.

Foster Hutchinson Esq.

M^r Edward Payne

William Phillips Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to draw up a Vote respecting the payment of the Collectors Premium &c to Report as soon as may be —

Upon a Motion made and seconded the Question was put — Whether Constables and Collectors shall be chose sepperate — Passed in the Affermative — It was then moved and the Question accordingly put — “Whether Six Collectors of Taxes shall be chose for the Year ensuing — Passed in the Negative —

Agreeable to a Report of the Committee respecting the payment of the Collectors Premium —

Voted, That the Sum of Six Pence on the Pound be & hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collecters of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums, as they shall Collect, and that the further Sum of Three Pence on the Pound be allowed to said Collectors, for all such Sums as they shall Collect, provided they pay into the Province Town and County Treasuries one half of the whole Sum they are obliged to pay them respectively within Six Months from the Time they receive the Tax Books from the Assessors, and the remainder in Six Months after, and provided also that each of the said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Select Men for the faithful discharge of their Duty in said Office —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that —

Jonathan Payson Esq.

M^r Samuel Adams - - - - - declines

M^r John Grant - - - - - refuses

M^r Sampson Salter

were chose into that Office —

[**621.**] Voted that Thomas Cushing Esq.

John Rowe Esq.

Foster Hutchinson Esq.

M^r Edward Payne

William Phillips Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to Examine the State of the Town Treasury, and enquire into the Expences of the Town and whether any Savings can be made; as also to consider what Sum of Money it may be necessary to raise to defrey the Charges of the Town the ensuing Year; and that they Report at May Meeting —

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire-Wards and upon sorting them it appeared that.

Joseph Jackson Esq.

The Hon^{ble} Royal Tyler Esq.

Newman Grenough Esq.
 Cap^t Solomon Davis
 M^r William Cooper
 M^r Samuel Austin
 M^r Joseph Jackson
 John Rowe Esq.
 M^r John Mico Wendell
 Thomas Marshall Esq.
 William Holmes Esq.
 M^r Joseph Tyler
 M^r Jonathan Williams
 M^r Timothy Fitch
 Cap^t Adino Paddock
 M^r James Richardson

were chose into that Office for the Year ensuing —

Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to John Scollay Esq. and M^r Henderson Inches for their faithful discharge of the Duty of Fire-Wards, a number of Years past.

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M:

[622.] 3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment.

John Ruddock Esq.	
William Story Esq.	- - - - Sworn
M ^r William Torrey	
Joseph Jackson Esq.	
Samuel Sewall Esq.	d ^o
John Hancock Esq.	
M ^r Ezekiel Price	d ^o

were chose Surveyers of High Ways for the Year ensuing.

That Article in the Warrant, Viz^t " Whether any Measures shall be taken for the better regulation of the Grist Mills " was considered; whereupon Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to draw up a Bill for the better regulation of the Grist Mills; and that they lay the same before the Town next May Meeting —

The Selectmen were desired to examine the Records respecting the Titles of the Land Stream &c and that they Report their Opinion at said Meeting —

The Selectmen Reported on the Account of M^r John Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, which Account as entred in his Books (and on File in the Town Clerks Office) was read; whereupon it was Voted that the same be accepted, and that M^r Fenno be accountable to the Town for 176 Bushels of Indian Corn and 70 Bushels of Rye remaining unsold amounting to £44 ,, 10/ and also for the Sum of £283 ,, 1 ,, 2 ,, Cash now in his hands exclusive of the Sum of £26 ,, 13 ,, 4 for his Salary & Assistance, as charged in his Account —

Coll^o Joseph Jackson Esq.
 William Phillips Esq.
 John Leveret Esq.

were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing; and they [623.] Are desired and Impowered to give all needful directions to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the Quantitys of Grain to

be sold and Affixing the price thereof from Time to Time as occasion shall require —

Voted, that Mess^{rs}. Thomas Gray
Ezekiel Price
William Greenleaff
William Coffin
Edward Payne

be and they hereby are Appointed a Committee to Audit the Accounts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are enjoind to Inspect every particular Account of the Moneys expended for the use of the Almshouse; they are also impowered when they shall Audit said Accounts to allow such of the Overseers as shall Advance Monys for the Relief of the Poor Interest on all such Sums from the Time so advanced, till they shall have Audited said Accounts —

Mess Martyn Gay
John Skinner

were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing. —

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant Viz^t. “Whether a Committee shall be chosen to Examine the Accompts of the Managers of Faneuil Hall Lotteries” —

Voted that William Phillips Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Isaac Smith Esq.
M^r. Edward Payne

be and hereby are appointed a Committee for that purpose.

John Tuder Esq.
M^r Joseph Man

were chose Surveyors of Wheat for the Year ensuing —

[624.] Voted, that the Consideration of Schoolmasters Salarys, and all other Salarys and Grants be referred to next May Meeting —

Voted, that James Beauteneau Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
Thomas Flucker Esq.
M^r. Thomas Gray

be and hereby are added to the Committee Appointed to Examine into the Expences of the Town &c. —

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to Act upon the List of Jurors —

That Article in the Warrant. Viz^t. “To Consider the Terms upon which John Hill Esq. will give up to the Town his Lease of the Lands upon Boston Neck” — was read and debated — whereupon Voted that the Sum of Three hundred Pounds lawful Money be and hereby is Granted unto the said John Hill Esq. upon Condition of his delivering up his Leases and putting the Town in possession of said Premises on or before the 25th. of March Inst^t. — And that the Three hundred Pounds granted as aforesaid be added to the next Tax that shall issue — It was further Voted that the Selectmen be desired upon receiving

Coll^o Hills Leases to Rent or again Lease out those Lands, as shall appear to them most for the Interest of the Town.

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. "To consider the Proposals of M^r. James Bryant relating to the Towns Lands on the North side of the Neck" was read — whereupon

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to Act thereon and in all Things relative to the Lands &c. on Boston Neck as they shall Judge most advantageous for the Town —

The Petition of a number of Proprietors & Inhabitants [625.] In and near Long Lane "That a further Allowance may be made them towards defreying the Charge of Paving said Lane" was read and debated — whereupon Voted that the Sum of Twenty five Pounds be and hereby is Granted the Proprietors of Long Lane for the purpose aforesaid —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t — "What Methods shall be taken for the Repairing of the Towns Warehouse opposite the Golden Ball" was considered, whereupon —

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to make an Estimate of the Cost of Repairing the Towns Warehouse opposite the Golden Ball, and that they insert the following Article in the Warrant for the next General Town Meeting — Viz^t. — "To consider "whether the Towns Warehouse opposite the Golden Ball shall "be Repaired or sold for the most it will fetch" — It was further Voted that the Selectmen be desired in the mean Time to receive Proposals from any Persons disposed to make them relative to the Purchase of said Warehouse, and also the Store Adjoining —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — "That the Sense of the Town may be taken respecting a Bill now pending in the General Court relative to Erecting Wooden Buildings, &c in the Town of Boston," was read and considered — whereupon Voted, that the further Consideration thereof be referred to the General Town Meeting in May next, and that in the interem the substance of said Bill be printed and distributed among the Inhabitants —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants for widening Joliffs Lane was read, and after considerable debate Voted that the same be dismissed —

Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are impowered and directed to set for the abatement of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Thursday till the first Thursday in April inclusive and no longer saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November, for the abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an opportunity of applying on the above limited Time, by reason of their [626.] Being out of the Province; at which Time they are also allowed and Impowered to Abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent or become Bankrupts between the said last Thursday in April and the last Day of November —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday the 25th of this Instant 9 O'Clock Before Noon —

Monday the 25th of March 9 O'Clock A : M : Met according to Adjournment —

The Committee Appointed the 12th of March last to Examine the Accounts of David Jeffries Town Treasurer have attended that Service and find the same right cast and well Vouched, in which he Charges himself with sundry Fines Rents and other Incomes of the Town; as also with the Tax of £7000 ,, — ,, — also with the Sum of Three thousand Pounds received of Harrison Gray Esq. Province Treasurer all which amount to the Sum of £14480 ,, 8 ,, 5½ including £3500 ,, — ,, — lent by the Province to the Town 1757 —

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abate-ments made the Collectors amounting to £589 ,, 3 ,, 5½ by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3357 ,, 9 ,, 9¼ of which he has paid £2248 ,, 19 ,, 6½, and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the Charges of the Almshouse and their Expences in the late Small Pox amounting to £3505 ,, 16 ,, 8 of which he has paid £2263 ,, 11 ,, 4½ and also with sundry Sums paid for Interest &c amounting to £121 ,, 3 ,, ¾ the whole amounting to £7573 ,, 13 ,, 0½ —

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very particular manner, and have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers for the amount of their Drafts, and every other branch of publick Charge all amounting as above to the Sum of £7573 ,, 13 ,, 0½ as by Account of Town Treasurys in the Town Treasurers Books Balance whereof being £6906 ,, 15 ,, 5 is carried to the Credit of new Account —

[627.] Which Report and Account being read, Voted that the same be and hereby is accepted —

Mess^{rs} Nathaniel Waterman - - - - Sworn
Jacob Williams d°.

were chose Cullers of Hoops Staves &c for the Year ensuing —

M^r John Skillins

was chosen a Surveyor of Boards &c for the Year ensuing —

The Hon^{ble} Royal Tyler Esq. M^r Joseph Jackson Cap^t Solomon Davis & M^r Timothy Fitch having excused themselves from serving as Fire Wards the Year ensuing —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the said Gentlemen for the faithful discharge of the Duty of Fire-Wards, a number of Years past —

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to Insert in the Warrant for the General Town Meeting in May next the following Article. Viz^t — To Consider some Method to get this Town exempted from the Province Law relative to the choice of Surveyors of the High Ways —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Fire Wards in the room of a like number who have resigned, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Coll^o William Tayler
M^r William Downe Cheever
James Cunningham Esq.
Cap^t Benjamin Waldo

were chose Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing —

List of Names returned the Selectmen by the Assessors were

laid before the Town, whereupon Voted, that the same be accepted, and left with the Selectmen, who were before chose to act thereon —

[628.] The Committee Appointed to Examine the Accounts of y^e Managers of Faneuil Hall Lotteries — Report that they had examined the Accompts of the Managers for Lottery N^o 3. and found the same right Cast —

Voted, that said Report be accepted, and that the following Sums be allowed and paid to said Managers in full of their Accounts — Viz^t

To Thomas Cushing Esq. - - - - -	£11	11	—
Samuel Hews Esq. - - - - -	9	10	—
John Scollay Esq. - - - - -	12	9	—
Benjamin Austin Esq - - - - -	12		—
Samuel Sewall Esq. - - - - -	12	9	—
M ^r Samuel P. Savage - - - - -	11	5	—
Ezekiel Lewis Esq. - - - - -	9	9	—

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to procure a sufficient number of new Hammers made in the best manner for the use of the Sealers of Leather — and that the same be properly number'd —

The Committee Appointed the 16th Day of August last “to consider what steps shall be taken in order to comply with the Condition upon which the late Hon^{ble} Thomas Hancock Esq. has left a Legacy to the Town of Boston, as also the most suitable Method in which the Town may testify the Sense they have of the Goodness of that Hon^{ble} Gentleman expressed by so truly charitable and important a Donation — Report in the form of a Vote as follows Viz^t —

Whereas the late Honourable Thomas Hancock Esq. in and by his last Will and Testament, among many other very generous and charitable Donations was pleased to give the Town of Boston the Sum of Six hundred Pounds lawful Money towards erecting and finishing a convenient House for the reception and more comfortable keeping such unhappy Persons as it shall please God in his Providence to deprive of their Reason in any part of this Province, such as are Inhabitants of Boston always to have [629.] The preference” on Condition that if the said Thomas Hancock Esq. did not in his lifetime build such House, which he seems to have had in his heart had it pleased God to have spared his life then the same should be built and finished in three Years after his decease. —

Voted, that the Town of Boston gratefully accept and they hereby accordingly accept of said Donation, and as a testimony of the gratitude of the Town, and as far as in them lyes to perpetuate the Memory of the late Hon^{ble} Thomas Hancock Esq. it is further Voted, that the Name of *Hancock* be Recorded and enrolled among those of *Faneuil* and the other worthy Benefactors of this City, and that such House when erected shall be called and known by the name of *Hancocks Hospital* Thus while the poor Unfortunates therein provided for, shall be insensible from whose Hands they derive the only possible alleviation of their miseries

in the power of humanity, those in all Ages who may enjoy the inestimable blessing of a sound mind shall rejoice in the bountiful provision for the distressed —

Which Report benign read, the Question was put — Whether the Town will accept thereof — Passed in the Affirmative — N. C. Voted, that the Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq.

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

John Rowe Esq.

Hon^{ble}. Thomas Flucker Esq.

Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq.

Foster Hutchinson Esq.

Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to open a Subscription for raising an adequate Sum for building and endowing a Hospital for the reception and more comfortable support of poor Idiots, Lunatics and such other unhappy Persons Inhabitants of this Town as it shall please almighty God in his Providence to deprive of the use of their Reason. Such Hospital when built to be under the direction and management of such Officers as the Town of Boston shall from Time to Time choose and appoint —

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired at the Towns Expence [630.] To provide proper Rolls of Parchment, for entering a fair Catalogue of all such worthy Persons as have been or shall hereafter be Benefactors to the Town of Boston. And the Town Clerk is hereby directed to make out a Catalogue in Paper and to lay it before the Town for their inspection at the next May Meeting, and against each Name shall be entered the Estate or Sum given with a brief mention of the use, and when approved by the Town the same shall be by the Town Clerk fairly Engrossed and entered in the Rolls. And thence forward no Name shall be entered in the Roll but by special Vote or order of the Town. And the Town Clerk or Recorder for the Time being shall Annually at the Meeting of the Town in March or May lay before the Town an account of all Donations for the Year preceeding, that the Town may take order thereon —

M^r. Jonathan Brown - - - - (Sworn)

was chosen an Assessor for the Year ensuing in the room of M^r. John Grenough who has resigned —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Report of a Committee respecting the late Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hancock Esq. Donation be published in the several News Papers —

Voted, that all Matters and Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the General Town Meeting in May next, to be then considered of and acted upon.

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved —

[631.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick

Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 14th. Day of May Anno Domini 1765.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Dr Sewall.

The Precept and Warrant, for calling the Meeting, read

Sundry Laws - - - - - read —

Joshua Henshaw Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at Boston upon Wednesday the 29th. Day of May Current ; and in order thereto to consider and ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected ; accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the choice of Four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen, that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at twelve O'Clock —

The Votes being brought in the number of Voters were found to be 641 — and upon sorting them it appear'd that the Four following Gentlemen were chose Viz^t.

The Hon ^{ble} . James Otis Esq. - - - -	388
Thomas Cushing Esq. - - - -	538
Oxenbridge Thatcher Esq. - - - -	427
M ^r . Thomas Gray - - - -	570

The choice of Representatives being over and declared by the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant, accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appeared that the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was unanimously chosen.

[632.] Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 O'Clock.

·3 O'Clock P : M : Met according to Adjournment.

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 14th. 1765 —

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their Annual Meeting the 15th. of May 1764 desiring the Selectmen to Visit the several publick Schools in the Town, and to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein as they should think proper, and to Report thereon —

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that Service on Tuesday the 10th. of June last, accompanied by the following Gentlemen — Viz^t. —

- The Hon^{ble} Thomas Hubbard Esq.
- Andrew Oliver Esq.
- Thomas Flucker Esq.
- Harrison Gray Esq.
- Royal Tyler Esq.

- The Representatives of the Town
- The Overseers of the Poor
- Rev^d. Ebenezer Pemberton
- Samuel Mather
- Mather Byles
- Andrew Elliot

[623.]

Samuel Cooper
 Samuel Checkley Jun^r.
 M^r. Samuel P. Savage
 M^r. Francis Shaw
 Joseph Green Esq.
 Cap^t. Ichabod Jones
 Joseph Green Esq.
 Thomas Tyler Esq.
 Joshua Winslow Esq.
 John Tudor Esq.
 Zachary Johonnott
 Coll^o. Whiting of Connecticut
 Samuel Fitch Esq.
 M^r. Edward Foster
 M^r. Nathaniel Coffin
 Ezekiel Lewis Esq.
 Samuel Hews Esq.
 William Phillips Esq.
 Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
 Samuel Wentworth Esq.
 M^r. Treasurer Jeffries
 D^r. John Sprague

And found the South Grammar School had 120 Scholars the North Grammar School 47 Scholars — the South Writing School 230 Scholars the North Writing School 163 Scholars, the Writing School in Queen Street 148 Scholars, all in very good order

JOSHUA HENSHAW	} Selectmen of Boston.
JOSEPH JACKSON	
BENJAMIN AUSTIN	
SAMUEL SEWALL	
NATHANIEL THWING	
JOHN RUDDOCK	

That Article in the Warrant. Viz^t. “ To consider some Method to get this Town exempted from the Province Law relative to the choice of Surveyors of High Ways ” — was read, and after debate had thereon — the Question was put — Whether such Application shall be made to the General Court at their next Session — Passed in the Negative —

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Flucker Esq. - - - Sworn. was chosen a Selectman for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given Nathaniel Thwing Esq. for his faithful services as a Selectman, several Years past —

[624.] Deacon Thomas Foster was chosen an Assessor for the Year ensuing — declines —

Mess^{rs}. Payson and Salter, chose Collectors for the Year ensuing appear'd and informed the Town that they should not serve them in that Office at the Rates stated at their Meeting in March last —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — It was Voted that the further consideration of such Matters as relate to the choice of

Collectors be referred over to the Adjournment of this Meeting and that there be printed Notifications of the same —

The Committee appointed the eleventh of March last to examine the state of the Treasury &c — Report — That the several Collectors of Taxes appear by the Treasurers Books to be indebted to the Town the 21st. of March last as follows — Viz^t. —

John Ruddock Esq.	for the Year 1763	£1023,,0,,0
M ^r . Samuel Adams	for the Year 1763	£1111,,0,,0
	for the Year 1764	£2452,,-,, -

3563,,0,,0

M ^r . Jonathan Payson,	for the Year 1763	£844,,-,, -
	for the Year 1764 -	1201,,-16-

2046,,-,,-

M ^r . John Grant	- - for the Year 1764	- - - - 1764,,-,,-
M ^r . Sampson Salter	- for the Year 1764	- - - - 1482,,-,,-

£9878,,0,,0

Out of which is to be deducted the Sum of £1854 — being the amount of Premiums which will be due to them and of the Abate-ments made and to be made for the Year 1764. so that the Sum really due from them is £8024,, in which is included the Sum of £7000,, — — the Town Voted to raise at their Meeting in May last; and which if the Vote then passed with respect to the pay-ment of the same is strictly complied with will be paid into the Treasury. one half of it sometime this present Month, and the re-mainder in August next; And when the Sum of £8024,, — afore-mentioned is received by the Treasurer he will be enabled to dis-charge every demand upon him to the 21st. of March aforesaid, and there will be a balance left in favor of the Town of £4379,,-9,,1 $\frac{3}{4}$ as will more fully appear by a state of the Town [635.] Treasury herewith exhibited — That by Information from the Province Treasurer there is due to the Province for the Year 1762 and 1763. the following Sums — Viz^t. —

From John Ruddock Esq. for the Year 1763	- - - -	£558,,15,,3
From M ^r . Samuel Adams, for the Year 1762	£1140,, 1,,4	
	for the Year 1763	1927,,16,,9

3067,,18,,1

From M ^r . Jonathan Payson for the Year 1763	- - - -	771,, 1,, -
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£4397,,14,,4

And the whole Tax for the Year 1764 from the } Collectors - - - of that Year - - - - }		5705,, 4,,2
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Which with the aforementioned Sum due to the Town of - - -		8024,,-,,-
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Makes in the whole the sum of £18126,,18,,6

Which Sum is due from the undermentioned

Collectors as follows, Viz^t —

From John Ruddock Esq.	about	- - - -	1400	,, - ,, -
From M ^r . Samuel Adams	- - - - d ^o .	- - - -	8000	,, - ,, -

From M ^r . Jonathan Payson - - d ^o .	- - - -	3326	„	—	—
From M ^r . Sampson Salter - - - d ^o .	- - - -	2440	„	—	—
From M ^r . John Grant - - - - - d ^o .	- - - -	2960	„	—	—
					£18126 „ — „ —

£5705 ,, 4 ,, 2 of the last mentioned Sums according to the Vote of the Town ought to be paid one half of it in July next, and the other half in December following—

Your Committee are of Opinion it would be for the Interest of the Town to take some effectual Measures to have the Taxes Collected and paid into the Treasury by the Time fixed by the Town for the payment of the same, the Expence of the Town it is probable will be thereby lessened, for as the Town has a considerable balance in its favor, if the Mony Voted Annually for the service of the Year was seasonably Collected, it would be in the power of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor to purchase what was wanted for the Towns use at a much cheaper rate with the Cash then they can upon Credit, but it appears to be of little or no advantage from Year to Year to raise a larger sum than is absolutely necessary for the service of the Year, with a view of preserving the Credit of the Town unless the Taxes are seasonably Collected; And unless some Measures are taken for this purpose, the Committee submit it to the consideration of the Town [636.] Whether it would not be most expedient not to raise any more than than £900 ,, — this Year which with the balance of £4370 ,, 9 ,, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ aforesaid would be sufficient to defrey the Charges thereof— this will be one measure at least that will have a tendency to expedite the payment of the outstanding debts: However if upon the whole the Town should determine to raise nearly the same sum as usual Your Committee are of Opinion that £5000. — will be sufficient as that Sum together with only about £200. — of the ballance aforementioned will defrey the Charges of the present Year agreeable to y^e Estimate hereunto annexed; there will be then left in the Treasury about £4100. — which the Committee are of Opinion should remain as a stock in the Treasury for a fund to be made use of by the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor as they may find it for the advantage of the Town, and some effectual Measures taken that such Sums as they may from Time to Time draw from it, might be replaced out of the Moneys Annually raised by the Town—In the Estimate annexed provision is made for every Charge that it is probable will arise, excepting the Charge of Repairing the Warehouse on the Dock the Dams upon each side of the Neck and the North Battery which the Committee did not include in the Estimate as it was uncertain what resolutions the Town would come into respecting the same—

The above Report being read and some debate had thereon, the further Consideration was referred over to the Adjournment of this Meeting—

That Article in the Warrant. Viz^t—“Whether the Towns Warehouse opposite the Golden Ball shall be repaired or Sold for the most it will fetch”—was read—and the Selectmen having thereupon acquainted the Inhabitants that said Warehouse was a

Donation to the Town and the Income appropriated for the Maintenance and support of the Publick Schools—the Question was put—Whether the Warehouse referred to shall be Repaired—Passed in the Affermative

It was then Moved, and Seconded that the Selectmen be desired if they shall Judge proper to Let said Warehouse on a Lease for a term of Time not exceeding Seven Years provided the Leaser will undertake the Repairs at his own Expence, the amount of the same to be [637.] Repaid him out of said Rent or hire—and the Question being accordingly put—Passed in the Affermative—

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t — “To take the Sense of the “Town respecting the Repairs of the Dam, on the East and West “side of the Neck which have been much damaged in the late “Storm”— was read; after considerable debate had thereon—the Question was put—Whether the Town would at this Meeting proceed to raise any Moneys for said Service—Passed in the Negative—It was then Voted, that

Richard Dana Esq.
 Royal Tyler Esq.
 M^r. Samuel Swift
 William Phillips Esq.
 Cap^t. Hopestill Foster
 James Beautineau Esq.
 Foster Hutchinson Esq.
 M^r. Solomon Kneeland
 John Avery Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to Consider in what way or manner the Towns Interest on Boston Neck may be disposed of for their most advantage, and to Report their Opinion as soon as may be

Voted, that the Sum of Five Thousand Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for relief of the Poor and defreying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year—

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter—

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r Peleg Wiswall for his Salary as Master of the North Gramar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall [638.] Become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^r Samuel Holyoke for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter—

Voted, that the Sum of One Hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r John Procter for his Salary as a Master of the

Writing School in Queen Street for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter. —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r Abia Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r John Tilestone for his Salary as Master of the North Writing School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly, and to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that a further Sum of Forty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r James Lovel as an encouragement for him to remain and exert himself in the service of the Town the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter —

[639.] Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r Ephraim Langdon for his Salary as Usher of the North Grammar School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r John Tileston Master of the North Writing School for providing an Assistant the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it becomes due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r Abiah Holbrook Master of the Writing School in the Common for providing an Assistant the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and paid out of the Town Treasury unto M^r David Jeffries for his Services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office —

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and hereby is directed and impowered to allow the several School Masters Interest on the Sums due to them from the Date of their Warrants, to the Time of payment —

Voted, that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 27th of this Instant May 9 O'Clock Before Noon, and that printed Notyfications of this Adjournment be dispersed among the Inhabitants.

Monday the 27 Day of May 9 O'Clock A : M: Met according to adjournment —

[640.] The Selectmen appointed a Committee at a Meeting of the Town last March to enquire into the terms or tenor upon

which the Mill Owners hold the Mill Pond Mills &c. And to consider what addition or amendment may be made to the Laws for regulating the Grist Mill which would tend to remedy the inconveniences the Town now labours under for want of faithful management in said Mills — Report —

That the 31st of July 1643 the Town granted to Henry Simmons and others all that Cove which is now the Mill Pond on Condition they Erected one or more Corn Mills within three Years and maintained the same forever. the Town also obliged the Proprietors by said Grant to make and maintain for ever a Gate of ten feet in breadth to open with the Flood for the passage of Boats into said Cove, and to make & maintain sufficient passable and safe Ways for Horse and Cart over the Trenches they had by said Grant liberty to dig. The Town further gave them One hundred Acres of Land at Braintree for the encouragement of said Mill, and stipulate that no other Common Mill shall be allowed except the necessary occasion of the Town require it. It has been suggested by some that there was a more particular Covenant and Agreement between the Proprietors and the Town, but nothing of it can be found in the Towns Books or Papers, and upon enquiry of some that have been Proprietors, and others, we are inclined to think it is a mistake, as they have been acquainted with the Original Grant before recited, but never heard of any Covenant or other Agreement —

Your Committee having informed themselves of the present situation of said Cove and Mill, are of Opinion that there has not been any forfeiture, which subjects the Proprietors to the Town, except the not maintaining a Gate for the passage of Boats into the Cove up the Creek over which the Mill Bridge now passes is one; For the Gate which was there has been for sometime entirely ruined and the passage into the Cove that way —

As to any additions or amendments to the Laws for regulating the Grist Mills, which would tend to lessen the present difficultys, your Committee would advise that if an alteration in said Laws can be obtained, “A Clause in the late Law which subjects the Miller to a penalty of five Shillings in case he refuses upon demand to weigh the Grain brought to them, and Meal delivered out,” should be [641.] Amended and explained, by a Law providing that the penalty may be a certain sum upon each Bushel, and that the Miller should be subjected to said penalty if he does not weigh Grain in & Meal out whether it be demanded or not — Which Report being read and considered, it was then Voted that the same be accepted —

The Committee chosen to consider in which way and manner the Towns Interest on Boston Neck may be disposed of for their best advantage — Report — That having carefully viewed the Dams aforesaid and the Towns Lands, on each side of said Neck, especially those heretofore Leased to John Hill Esq. and to Samuel Wentworth Esq. and having maturely considered the quantity quality and situation thereof. are fully of Opinion that it will not be for the Interest of said Town but to their great damage and loss either to repair or uphold either of those Dams or to now

build any Dam there or to keep any of the Lands Leased as aforesaid in their hands; but that it will be most for the benefit of the Town to sell the same Lands on each side the High Way there as soon as may be reserving to the Town whensoever they shall Judge it needful liberty to set up and build maintain and uphold good Banks or Sea Walls adjoining to either side of said High Way, sufficient to preserve the Causeys and Pavements of the said Way from being washed away or broken up by the violence of the Winds and Waves; and likewise restraining the Purchaser or Purchasers of the same Lands their Heirs and Assigns for ever, from taking or carrying any of the Soil Clay or Earth from off the same Lands—

The above Report being read and debate had thereon the further Consideration was referred over to the next Town Meeting.

Voted, that all Matters and Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the next General Town Meeting—

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof.

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[642.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday 27th of May Anno Domini 1765.

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read—

The Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator.

The Bill pending in the General Court relative to Wooden Buildings, was read, and that the sense of the Town respecting the same might be the better taken it was considered Paragraph by Paragraph, when it appeared that the Bill in General was agreeable, — The Clauses disapproved of, and which the Representatives were desired to have out in their new Draft of a Bill to be offered by them to the General Court at the approaching Session were as follows — Vizt.

1st “ And if after the expiration of the said term of ten Days the Selectmen shall Judge it necessary that such House shall be Shingled, they may if they see cause with the approbation of three Justices of the Peace, Quorum unus within the said Town, signified in writing under their hands, grant Lisence for Shingling such Roof, provided that the said Justices shall be such as shall be specially authorized for that purpose by the Governor or Commander in Chief, with the advice and consent of the Council to act therein during pleasure: And in case there shall not at any time hereafter be three Justices specially appointed in manner aforesaid, and the Governor, and Council shall not upon application from the Selectmen proceed to authorize such; then the Court of General Session of the Peace for the County of Suffolk, may appoint three such Justices for the purpose aforesaid; And it shall and may be lawful upon Lisence thus had and obtained, for the

Owner or Owners of such House to cause the same to be Shingled accordingly”

2nd “ And every Carpenter or other Person who shall Erect or remove any House or Building contrary to the true intent & meaning of this Act, or shall Shingle the Roof of any old Dwelling House. [643.] In the Town of Boston without License obtained as before-mentioned, such Carpenter or other Person shall likewise forfeit and pay the sum of Fifty Pounds.”—

3rd “ That the Owner of any and every House of more than Seven Feet in high which shall be built in the said Town of Boston, after the publication of this Act, otherwise then with Stone or Brick as it is by Law provided shall forfeit and pay the further Sum of Fifty Pounds for every such Offence ”—

4th “ With the approbation of three Justices of the Peace Quorum unus, within the said Town appointed as aforesaid, and signified by them in manner aforesaid.”

5th “ And may likewise be recovered by Presentment Indictment or Information. And the Attorney General of this Province ; as also the Grand Jurors for the County of Suffolk, are hereby respectively required from Time to Time diligently to enquire into inform of and present all Offences that shall be committed against the same ”—

6th “ Provided that nothing in this Act shall be construed or understood to exempt any Offenders from like penaltys already incurred for the breach of either of the Laws beforementioned ”—

M^r. John Winslow

was chosen a Selectman for the Year ensuing

Sworn

M^r Daniel Pecker

was chosen an Assessor, for the Year ensuing.

d^o.

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M.

3 O'Clock P : M : Met according to Adjournment —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “ To consider what Measures may be proper for the preservation of Beacon Hill ” was read, and after debate had thereon it appearing to the Town that said Hill is in very great danger of being destroyed by Thomas Hodson & Others digging Gravel on his Lot on North side of said Hill, and there being no prospect of the Towns being able to purchase his Land or to prevent his digging, without [644.] The interposition of the General Court, therefore

Voted, that the Representatives of the Town be and they hereby are directed to use their influence in the General Court at the next Session, that an Act may be provided for the purposes aforesaid —

That Clause in the Warrant Viz^t. “ To consider what Measures may be proper to prevent the Loss of Deer Island Head by the Incroachment of the Sea.” was read, and thereupon

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to Examine into the present Circumstances of Deer Island Head and to make a true Representation thereof to the General Court at their next Session ; at the same Time setting forth of what importance it is to the trading Interest of this Province that said Head Land and thereby this Harbour should be preserved

from the Ruin that now threatens them, and praying that such speedy and effectual Measures may be taken for this purpose, as the General Court in their great Wisdom shall think meet —

Upon Consideration of that Clause in the Warrant Viz'. — “What further Steps shall be taken to obtain relief from the General Court respecting the great charge incurred by the Small Pox — Voted, that the Selectmen be a Committee to draft a Petition to the General Court, representing, That by means of the Small Pox which in the providence of God was permitted to prevail in this Town the Year past, the Inhabitants have been great Sufferers, as well by the extraordinary Expence it hath occasioned as by loss of Business; and therefore humbly praying that the General Court would afford us such relief under our distress as they in their great Goodness shall think proper, and that the Selectmen hand said Draft to our Representatives who are desired by the Town to prefer the same at the next Session of the General Court —

Report of Committee relative to the Expences of the Town again read, and thereupon Voted, That the same be accepted —

[645.] That Article in the Warrant Viz'. — “To consider the Votes relating to Collectors past last March Meeting” was read, and the Question put Viz'. — Whether the Vote respecting the Collectors Premium shall be reconsidered, passed in the Negative —

The Selectmen having laid before the Town Lists of Names for the Jury Boxes, the same were accepted by the Town, and the Selectmen desired to place them in the Boxes accordingly —

The Vote respecting the number of Collectors passed last March Meeting, and which confined the choice to four only, was now reconsidered, whereupon

Voted, that there be Six Collectors of Taxes chose for the Year ensuing —

The Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes for Six Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mess ^{rs} .	Samuel Adams	- - -	declines
	Jonathan Payson		d ^o .
	John Grant		d ^o .
	Sampson Salter		d ^o .
	Samuel Ruggles		
	Benjamin Edes		

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Fryday next 3 O'Clock P: M:

Met according to Adjournment —

The Report of a Committee relative to the Towns Land on Boston Neck; the further Consideration whereof being referred over to this Meeting; was read — And after considerable debate had thereon. the Question was put. Viz'. — Whether said Report shall be accepted — Passed in the Negative —

Upon a Motion made and seconded it was Voted, that the Lands, [646.] On each side of the Neck be Leased in their present State and Circumstances at the best discretion of the Selectmen — It

was further Voted, that the term of Time on which said Lands are to be Leased, shall not exceed three Years —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — the Question was put Viz^t. — Whether the Consideration of the Repairs of the North Battery shall be referred to another Meeting — Passed in y^e. Negative

It was then Voted that

The Hon^{ble}. Samuel Wells Esq.
James Beutineau Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
Cap^t. Nathaniel Greenwood
M^r. Robert Peirpoint

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to enquire into the present state of the North Battery, and Report their Opinion, and what they apprehend will be the Sum necessary to put the same in proper Repairs — Report to be made at the Adjournment of this Meeting

Jonathan Payson Esq.
M^r. Sampson Salter

were again chose Collectors for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Friday the 17th. of June next 3 O'Clock P: M:

Fryday June 17th. 3 O'Clock P: M Met according to Adjournment —

The Town brought in their Votes for two Collectors and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Mess^{rs} Edward Hollyday
Edward Church

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing —

[647.] The absence of the Chairman of the Committee appointed the 27th of May last “to enquire into the present state of the North Battery and what will be a sum sufficient to put the same into proper repair,” having prevented said Committee from Reporting their Opinion at this Adjournment as was desired and intended — the Question was put Viz^t — “Whether the Consideration of this Matter shall now come on — passed in the Affermative — The Town was then informed that their Committee were of Opinion when on the Premisses that the Battery and Wharff should be repaired, and that the Charge thereof would not exceed £230 — after some debate it was

Voted, That the Selectmen be and hereby are desired to repair the North Battery and the Wharff adjoining, provided nevertheless that the Expencc thereof shall not exceed the Sum of Two hundred and thirty Pounds lawful Money —

Voted, that all Matters and Things that remain unfinish'd at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the next General Town Meeting, to be then considered and acted upon —

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a legal Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at Faneuil Hall August 27th Anno Domini 1765 —

The Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator —

[648.] The Town having an utter detestation of the extraordinary & violent proceedings of a number of Persons unknown against some of the Inhabitants of the same, the last Night — Vote unanimously that the Selectmen and Majestrates of the Town be desired to use their utmost endeavors agreable to Law to suppress the like disorders for the future, and that the Freeholders and other Inhabitants will do every thing in their power to assist them therein —

Voted, That the Inhabitants of this Town will be ready on all occasions to assist the Selectmen and Majestrates in the Suppression of all Disorders of a like nature that may happen when called upon for that purpose

Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Thursday the 12th of Septem^r 1765.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read.

The Hon^{ble} James Otis was chosen Moderator —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t “To confer upon “such “Measures as shall appear necessary to be taken in consequence “of [649.] The Stamp Act, and other Matters of Greivance, “and to determine whether Instructions shall be given to the “Representatives of the Town in General Assembly for their Conduct at this very alarming Crisis” — was read, whereupon — Voted, unanimously that Instructions be given our Representatives in General Assembly —

Voted, that the Hon^{ble} Samuel Wells Esq.

Richard Dana Esq.

John Rowe Esq.

M^r Samuel Adams

John Erving J^r. Esq.

Joseph Green Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to consider of what Instructions are proper to be given the Representatives of the Town as to their Conduct in General Court for the remainder of the Year —

On a Motion made and scconded, Voted unanimously that

The Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. the Moderator

The Gentlemen the Selectmen & Town Clerk

The Representatives of the Town, together with

The Hon^{ble} Samuel Wells Esq.
 The Hon^{ble} Royal Tyler Esq.
 The Hon^{ble} Thomas Flucker Esq.
 The Hon^{ble} Thomas Hubbard Esq.
 The Hon^{ble} Harrison Gray Esq.
 The Hon^{ble} John Erving Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to wait upon the Hon^{ble} Lord Adam Gorden, a Member of the British Parliament now making the Tour of America, to Congratulate his Lordship in the Name of the Town, upon his safe Arrival; to express their Wishes for his Lordships Prosperity; and to request his kind Representations and Influence in favor of this Town and Province as his Lordships Wisdom and Justice shall direct; particularly with Regard to the new Parliamentary Regulations, that so nearly affect the Rights as well as Trade of the American Colonies, and have created such universal uneasiness among his Majestys loyal [650.] Subjects on this Continent —

The Petition of Cap^t. Onesiphorus Tileston and others Tradesmen employed in repairing Faneuil Hall praying that the Town would grant them some Relief on account of the length of Time they have already and are still like to be out of the Mony due to them was read and debated — whereupon —

Voted, that The Hon^{ble} Royal Tyler Esq.
 The Hon^{ble} Samuel Well Esq.
 John Barrett Esq.
 Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
 Benjamin Kent Esq.
 Meletiah Bourn Esq.
 Samuel Grant Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to take into consideration the Accounts of the Managers of the Lotteries for the Repairs of Faneuil Hall so far as they have been drawn as also the Accounts of the several Tradesmen concerned in said Repairs, and that they Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Wednesday next 3 O'Clock P: M: —

Wednesday the 18th of September 3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment —

The Committee Appointed by the Town to wait upon Lord Adam Gorden, with their address — Reported — that they had attended that service, and presented his Lordship with an attested Copy of the Vote, to which he was pleased to return the following Answer in Writing —

Gentlemen

I find myself very sensibly obliged to you for this Mark of Your Attention, and for the Honor you have done me by your unanimous Address of Yesterday, for which and your good [651.] Wishes expressed in it, I beg leave to return you my best Thanks. —

I have had much Satisfaction in the Tour I have made in British America, and am extremely sorry to understand, there should at

this Time subsist any Uneasiness among his Majestys good Subjects there ; more particularly in the Antient and Loyal Province and Town of Boston —

What little Influence I may be supposed to have, shall ever be chearfully employed where the Interest of Great Britian & America are concerned, which to me seem inseperable: Having ever been of Opinion that any Man who could wish to see a Distinction or endeavor to Create a Difference between them, must be an Enemy to both —

I have the Honor to be with much Truth & Esteem
Gentlemen

Your Most Obedient and
Most Humble Servant

Boston September 13th 1765. AD : GORDEN —

The Committee Appointed the 12th Instant on the Petition of Onesip^r Tileston and others — Report —

That the Accounts of the Managers of the Lotteries for repairing Faneuil Hall so far as they have been drawn are right cast. As to the Accounts of the Several Tradesmen concerned in said Repairs, the Committee apprehend they have no Just cause to complain of the Town should they tarry for the Mony without Interest untill it is raised by Lottery, which is exactly conformable to their Agreement with the Selectmen, and which Contract concludes with these words Viz^t “ And to wait for our pay untill the Mony is raised by Lottery ” therefore the Committee are of Opinion that the Town do not at present make any provision or allowance towards discharging said Accounts or any part thereof —

The Committee beg leave to recommend to the Town that when the Accounts of these Tradesmen shall have been properly liquidated, and as sufficient Sums from Time to Time are raised by Lottery to discharge them, that at the then next Meeting of the Town, all the hardships they may have suffered by the length of Time they have laid out of their Moneys, or other ways may be maturely weighed and such an Allowance made them by the Town as that Time may be Judged proper —

ROYAL TYLER p Order

[652.] Which Report being read and debate had thereon the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative —

It was moved and seconded that there be a reconsideration of the above Vote, and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Negative —

On a motion made and seconded, Voted that

M^r Samuel Adams

M^r Thomas Gray

John Rowe Esq.

Melatih Bourn Esq.

Nicholas Boylston Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to Liquidate the several Accounts of the Tradesmen concerned in the Repairs of Faneuil Hall.

The Committee Appointed to draw up Instructions for the Representatives of the Town reported the following Draft —

To the Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. Thomas Cushing Esq. and M^r. Thomas Gray.
Gentlemen

At a Time when the British American Subjects are every where loudly complaining of arbitrary unconstitutional Innovations the Town of Boston can not any longer remain silent without Just Imputation and Inexcusable Neglect. We therefore the Freeholders and other Inhabitants being legally Assembled in Faneuil Hall, to consider What steps are necessary for us to take at this alarming Crisis, think it proper to communicate to you our united Sentiments, and to give you our Instructions thereupon —

It fills us with very great Concern to find, that Measures have been Adopted by the British Ministry, and Acts of Parliament made, which press hard upon our invaluable Rights and Privileges and ten greatly to distress the Trade of the Province, by which we have heretofore been able to contribute so large a share towards the Inriching [653.] Of the Mother Country — But we are more particularly alarmed and astonished at the Act called the Stamp Act, by which a very grievous and we apprehend unconstitutional Tax is to be laid upon the Colonies —

By the Royal Charter granted to our Ancestors the power of making Laws for our internal Government and of levying Taxes, is vested in the General Assembly: And by the same Charter the Inhabitants of this Province are entitled to all the Rights & Privileges of natural free born Subjects of Great Britain; the most essential Rights of British Subjects are those of being represented in the same Body which exercises the power of levying Taxes upon them, and of having their Property tryed by Juries; These are the very Pillars of the British Constitution, founded in the common Rights of Mankind. It is certain we were in no sense represented in the Parliament of Great Britain, when this Act of Taxation was made: And it is also certain that this Law admits of our propertys being tryed in Controversies arising from internal concerns by Courts of Admiralty without a Jury: It follows that at once it annihilates the most valuable Privileges of our Charter, deprives us of the most essential Rights of Britain and greatly weakens the best securities of our Lives, Liberties and Estates; which may hereafter be at the disposal of Judges who may be Strangers to us, and perhaps malicious, mercenary, corrupt and oppressive. But admitting that we had no complaints of this Nature we should still have reason to except against the Inequality of these Taxes: It is well known that the People of this Province have not only settled this Country, but enlarged and defended the British Dominion in America with a vast Expence of Treasure and Blood; they have exerted themselves in the most distinguished services for their King by which they have often been reduced to the greatest distress; And in the late War more especially by their surprizing Exertions, they have brought upon themselves a Debt almost insupportable; And we are well assured if these expensive services, for which very little if any advantage hath ever accrued to them-

selves, together with the necessary Charges of supporting & defending his Majestys Government here had been duly estimated, the Moneys designd to be drawn from us by this Act, would have appeared greatly beyond our Proportion. We look upon it as a peculiar hardship, that when the Representative Body of this Province had prepared and sent forward a [654.] Decent Remonstrance against these Proceedings, while they were depending in the House of Commons, it failed of admittance there: And this we esteem the more extraordinary, in as much as being unrepresented, it was the only Method whereby they could make known their Objections to Measures, in the Event of which their Constituents were to be so deeply interested. Moreover this Act if carried into Execution, will become a further Grievance to us as it will afford a Precedent for the Parliament to Tax us in all future Time, and in all such Ways and Measures, as they shall Judge meet without our Consent.

We therefore think it our indispensible Duty in Justice to ourselves and Posterity, as it is our undoubted Privilege in the most open and unreserved, but decent and respectful Terms to declare our greatest Disatisfaction with this Law; And we think it incumbent upon you by no Means to Join in any publick Measures for countenancing and assisting in the Execution of the same: But to use your best endeavors in the General Assembly, to have the Inherent unalienable Rights of the People of this Province, asserted and vindicated, and left upon the publick Records, that Posterity may never have reason to charge the present Times with the Guilt of tamely given them away.

It affords us the Greatest Satisfaction to hear that the Congress proposed by the House of Representatives of this Province, is consented to by the Representatives of most of the other Collonies on the Continent. — We have the warmest Expectations from the united Counsels of that very respectable Committee: And we may with the strictest Propriety enjoin upon M^r Otis, a Member of the same, being also one of the Representatives of this Town to contribute the utmost of his Ability, in having the Rights of the Colonies stated in the clearest vein, and laid before the Parliament and in preparing a humble Petition to the King our Sovereign and Father, under whose Gracious Care and Protection, we have the strongest Reason to hope, that the Rights of the Colonies in General & the particular Charter Rights of this Province will be confirmed and perpetuated. We further Instruct you to take particular Care that the best Æconomy may be used in expending the publick Moneys, and that no unaccustomed Grants may be made to those who serve the Government — And we in general recommend to your Care, that the Monies of the Province drawn from the Individuals of the People at a Time when almost [655.] Every Avenue of our Trade is Obstructed, may not be applyed to any other Purposes, under any Pretence of necessary Contingent Charges, but what are evidently intended in the Act for supplying the Treasury.

The foregoing Report having been read several Times, and put Paragraph by Paragraph: It was Voted unanimously that the same be accepted —

On a Motion made and seconded it was unanimously. Voted, that,

The Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. the Moderator
 The Hon^{ble} Samuel Wells Esq.
 The Hon^{ble} Harrison Gray Esq.
 The Hon^{ble} Royal Tyler Esq.
 Joshua Henshaw Esq.
 John Rowe Esq.
 M^r Samuel Adams

be a Committee to draw up and transmit by the first Opportunity, to the Right Honourable General Conway, now one of his Majestys principal Secretarys of State, and to Coll^o Isaac Barre a Member of Parliament several Addresses, humbly expressing the sincere Thanks of this Metropolis of his Majestys ancient and loyal Province of the Massachusetts Bay, for their noble, generous, and truly patriotick Speeches, at the last Session of Parliament, in favor of the Colonies, their Rights and Privileges: And that correct Copies of the same be desired that they may be deposited among our most precious Archives. Also Voted, that those Gentlemens Pictures as soon as they can be obtained, be placed in Faneuil Hall as a standing Monument to all Posterity, of the Virtue and Justice of our Benefactors, and a lasting Proof of our Gratitude —

Voted, that the Instructions to our Representatives be printed in the Thursdays News Papers —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are Given to the Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[666.]¹ At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Fryday the 27th Day of September 1765 —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Samuel Checkley.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read.

The Precept for Choosing One Representative in the Room of Oxenbridge Thatcher Esq. lately deceased, was read

Voted, that the Town will proceed to the choice of a suitable Person to Represent them at the Great & General Court the remaining part of the Year in the room of the late Oxenbridge Thatcher Esq. deceased

The Selectmen having declared to the Inhabitants that the Poll would be closed at 12 O'Clock, the Inhabitants withdrew & brought in their Votes for a Representative, and upon counting and sorting them it appeared that the number of Votes were 572 of which John Ruddock Esq. had 110—John Rowe Esq. 137—John Hancock Esq. 40—and M^r Samuel Adams 247—there being no choice the Inhabitants were desired to withdraw again, and bring in their Votes, which being accordingly done, it was found that

¹ [The original paging here skips ten. W. H. W.]

the number of Votes were 448. and that M^r. Samuel Adams had 265 Votes: Whereupon it was declared by the Selectmen that the said M^r. Adams was duly Elected —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 2^d Day of November A D 1765 —

[667.] Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read.

The Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants that Measures may be taken to prevent the Disorders that sometime happen at this Season of the Year, was read and large debate had thereon; but the Petitioners desire leave of the Town to withdraw their Petition the Question was accordingly put, and passed in the Affirmative. —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honourable James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Fryday the 15th of November A D 1765 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read

The Hon^{ble} Samuel Wells Esq. chosen Moderator

That Article in the Warrant. Viz^t. “To determine whether they will choose two Collectors of Taxes for the present Year in the room of M^r. Edward Church and Benjamin Edes who were chosen in May last but refuse to serve” and after Debate had thereon the Question was put . Viz^t. Whether two Collectors shall now be chose in the room of the two who have declined serving — Passed in the Negative —

[668.] Voted, that the Gentlemen the Assessors be and hereby are directed to deliver the Tax Books to the four Collecters, who were chose at a late Meeting, they having given Bond and qualified themselves as the Law directs —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble} Samuel Wells Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting, for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a legal Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 18th. Day of December Anno Domini 1765 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read.

The Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. chosen Moderator

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants for calling this Meeting was read, and after Debate had thereon

Voted unanimously that

Mr. Samuel Adams
John Rowe Esq.
Thomas Cushing Esq.
John Hancock Esq.
John Ruldock Esq.
Samuel Sewall Esq.
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Benjamin Kent Esq.

[669.] Be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to sign and present the following Memorial to his Excellency the Governor in Council; and that

Jeremiah Gridley Esq.
James Otis Esq.
John Adams Esq.

be applyed to as Council to appear in behalf of the Town in support of said Memorial —

Province of the Massachusetts Bay

To His Excellency the Governor in Council —

The Memorial of the Town of Boston Humbly Sheweth —

That your Memorialists having a Just Sense of the value of the British Constitution of Government, under which they have enjoyed all the Blessings of Civil Life, cannot but be deeply affected, when the Channels through which these Blessings are derived to us are obstructed; which is at present our unhappy Case. The Courts of Law within the Province in which alone Justice can be distributed among the People, so far as respects Civil Matters are to all intents and purposes shut up, for which your Memorialists apprehend no Just and legal Reason can be Assigned. —

We have always understood that the Law is the great rule of Right, the Security of our Lives and Propertys, and the best Birth right of Englishmen: Under the Apprehensions we make our humble Applications to your Excellency in Council, with whom the executive Power within the Province is constitutionally lodged, that you would be pleased to give such Directions to the several Courts and their Officers, as that under no Pretence whatever, we may be any longer deprived of this invaluable Blessing: — And your Memorialists pray that they may be heard upon this most important Subject by their Council learned in Law.

And as in Duty bound, they ever pray &c —

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M:

3: O'clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment

[670.] Voted, that the Committee appointed to present the above Memorial to His Excellency in Council, be desired to do it as soon as possible, and that the Town Clerk acquaint Jeremiah Gridley Esq. the Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. and Mr John Adams of the Vote respecting their being apply'd to as Council to appear in behalf of the Town in support of said Memorial —

Adjourned to Saturday next 10 O'C: A: M:

Saturday December 21. 1765. Met according to Adjournm^t.

M^r Samuel Adams Chairman of the Committee appointed to present the Petition of the Town to his Excellency in Council for opening the Courts of Law within this Province — Reported — That they had presented the same, and that the Town had been heard thereon, by their Council Appointed for that purpose; and that the Governor and Council had the Subject Matter of the Memorial now under consideration. —

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment.

M^r. Adams again Reported — That the Honourable the Council had come into some Resolves relative to the Memorial of the Town to His Excellency in Council, a Copy of which had been handed him by the Deputy Secretary, which Resolves being read it was Voted that the same be entred upon the Town Records —

And they are as follows Viz^t. —

At a Council held at the Council Chamber in Boston upon Saturday the 21st. Day of Decem^r. 1765

The Board proceeded to the Consideration of the Memorial of the Town of Boston, and came to the following resolves — Viz^t. —

That a Question in Law necessarily arises from said Memorial, namely, Whether the Officers of the Courts of Law can be justified in proceeding in their respective Offices with unstamp'd [671.] Papers, and it is thereupon — Resolved that it is the Business of the Courts of Law to determine Points of Law, nor can the Board with any propriety direct or advise the said Courts in such Judgments or determination, and in this point of Law, under the present state of the Province the Board are desirous that the said Courts should be free in their Judgements, without any apprehension of censure from the Board, It is therefore further —

Resolved, that the Subject Matter of this Memorial is not proper for the determination of this Board nor is it in the power of the Board to afford relief in the way and manner pray'd for, but the Board recommend it to the Justices of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the County of Suffolk to determine the aforesaid Point of Law as soon as may be, and to the other Courts within the Province to determine it at or before their first respective Terms. —

A true Copy Att Jn^o Corron D Secry. —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — the Question was put Viz^t Whether the Town apprehend the above Resolves of Council in consequence of their Memorial to His Excellency, in Council to be satisfactory — Passed in the Negative unanimously —

Adjourned to Thursday next 10 O'Clock A: M:

Thursday December 26th. 1765. Met according to Adjournm^t.

The Town being acquainted by several Gentlemen present, that the Courts of Probate within this Province would be opened; that the Sheriff of the County of Suffolk had served and was ready to serve all Writts brought to him, and that the Court of Common

Pleas for said County next in course to sit, would meet & proceed to Business; and that M^r Sheriff Greanleaff and M^r. William Mullineux could give the Town further satisfaction relative to these particulars —

It was therefore Voted, that M^r. Sheriff and Mr Mullineux be desired to inform the Town respecting these Matters — M^r. Sheriff accordingly declared that he had duly served all the Writts which had been given him for service to this Day And M^r. Mullineux that [672.] Having discoursed the Judges of the Inferior Court he had no reason to doubt but that the aforesaid Court would at their next Term proceed to Business as usual —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted that when this Meeting be Adjourned, it shall be to Thursday the 16th Day of January next —

Stephen Greanleaf Esq. Sheriff of the County of Suffolk having informed the Town that he and his Deputy M^r. Benjamin Cudworth had each of them Yesterday received a Letter tending to the Disorder of the Town which being read at the desire of the Town, it was thereupon

Voted, unanimously that said Letters were highly abusive and inflamitery, and tending to the distruction of all good Order and Government; that they abhor and detest them, and that they will be at all Times ready to assist the Civil Majestrate and support all Officers in the execution of their Trust according to the Laws and usage of this Land, and also properly to reward the Person or Persous who shall discover and detect the Author or Authors of said Letters or either of them upon Conviction —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, unanimously That the Representatives of the Town be and they hereby are Instructed and directed to apply to his Excellency Francis Bernard Esq. as soon as may be, humbly to desire that the General Assembly of this Province be not further prorogued —

Then the Question was put — Whether the Town would now Adjourn, which passed in the Affermative, and the Meeting was accordingly Adjourned to Thursday the 16th. of January next 3. O'Clock P: M:

Thursday the 16th of January 1766. Met according to Adjournment. —

M^r. Adams Chairman of the Committee appointed to Liquidate [673.] The Accounts of the several Tradesmen who repaired Faneuil Hall, acquainted the Town that they were not then prepared to make Report thereon —

“ Whereas the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the County together with the Court of Probate is now open and Business going on as usual — Voted. unanimously that the Representatives of the Town be and hereby are Instructed to use their utmost endeavours with the General Assembly at the present Session; that Measures may be taken that Justice be also duly Administred in all the Countys throughout the Province and that enquiry may be made into the Reasons why the Courts of Justice in the Province has been in any Measure obstructed —

It is further Voted unanimously, That the Representatives be also Instructed, to use their Influence in the General Assembly that proper enquiry may be made into the behavior of any Person or Persons who by their misconduct have either contributed towards the Difficultys we labor under respecting the Stamp Act, or have basely neglected to use their upright and best endeavors, to relieve us from those Difficultys" —

Voted that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honourable James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[674.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 10th Day of March Anno Domini 1766 —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d D^r Chauncy —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read —

Sundry Laws enjoyn'd to be read at this Meeting - - read —

The Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oath respecting his paying and reciving Bills of Credit of the Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island Governments, as required by an Act of this Province —

William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, and having taken the Oath respecting the Receiving and Paying Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty, which oaths were administered to him by John Avery Esq —

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted it appeared that —

Joshua Henshaw Esq - - - - excused

Joseph Jackson Esq - - - - Sworn

Benjamin Austin Esq - - - - excused

Samuel Sewall Esq - - - - Sworn

John Ruddock Esq - - - - d^o

John Hancock Esq - - - - d^o

M^r John Winslow - - - - excused

were chose Selectmen, for the Year ensuing —

[675.] Joshua Henshaw & Benjamin Austin Esq^{rs} having excused themselves from serving as Selectmen the Year ensuing—

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the said Joshua Henshaw & Benjamin Austin Esq^{rs} for their faithful services as Selectmen some Years past —

The Town brought in their Votes for two Selectmen in the room of those Gentlemen that had excused themselves from serving, and upon sorting them it appeared that —

William Phillips Esq.

M^r Timothy Newell

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing —

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them, it appeared that

John Barrett Esq.
 The Hon^{ble} Royal Tyler Esq.
 M^r Benjamin Dolbear
 Metatiah Bourn Esq
 Isaac Smith Esq.
 M^r Jonathan Mason
 Joseph Gardner Esq.
 M^r William Whitwell
 M^r Henderson Inches
 Capt Benjamin Hammett
 M^r Ebenezer Storer
 John Avery Esq (excused) 1 chose Page

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing.

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them it appeared that

[676.]

Joseph Scott Esq - - - excused
 M^r Thomas Ivers
 M^r Thomas Trott
 M^r Josiah Torrey
 M^r Phillip Freeman
 M^r Robert Gould
 Cap^t Jeremiah Stimson
 M^r Samuel Abbott
 M^r William Boardman
 M^r Neal M^cIntyre
 M^r Benjamin Phillips
 M^r Daniel Parker

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing — (all sworn)

The Town brought in their Votes for a County Treasurer & which were sealed up and delivered to M^r Constable Salmon to be returned to the Court of Sessions —

The Town brought in their Votes for a Register of Deeds &c. for the County of Suffolk, which were sealed up and delivered to M^r Constable Salmon to be returned to the Court of Sessions —

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire-Wards, and upon sorting them it appear'd, that

Newman Grenough. Esq.
 Joseph Jackson Esq. - - - excused
 John Rowe Esq.
 M^r. William Cooper
 M^r. Samuel Austin - - - excused
 M^r. John Mico Wendell
 Thomas Marshall Esq.
 William Homes Esq.
 M^r. Joseph Tyler
 M^r. Jonathan Williams
 Cap^t. Adino Paddock
 M^r. James Richardson
 William Tayler. Esq. - - - (excused)
 Cap^t. William Downe Cheever

[677.]

James Cunningham. Esq.

Capt. Benjamin Waldo

were chose Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing — (all sworn)

Joseph Jackson Esq. M^r. Samuel Austin and William Tayler Esq. having excused themselves from serving the Town as Fire-Wards the Year ensuing —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the said Joseph Jackson, Samuel Austin and William Tayler for their faithful services as Fire-Wards, some Years past —

The Votes were brought in for Town Treasurer, and upon sorting them it appeared that M^r. David Jeffries was chosen, and having taken the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty, which Oaths were administred to him by

Upon a Motion made and seconded — the Question was put “ Whether Constables and Collectors shall be Chose sepparate — Passed in the Affermative —

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds be remitted out of the Ten Pounds Fine, to such Person as shall be Chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing, and shall decline serving.

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Constables, the Persons chose into that Office and sworn are ·

Mess^{rs}. Augustus Hail

Francis Salmon

Peter Barbour

John Mein

Hugh Torbet

Robert Gorden

James Anderson

John Stevenson

George Lindsey

James Charity

William M^c.Alpine

William Corbitt (2 more hereafter)

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 O’Clock.

3 O’Clock P : M : Met according to Adjournment —

The Town brought in their Votes for One Selectman, and upon sorting them it appear’d that

John Rowe Esq. sworn

was chosen a Selectman for the Year ensuing.

The Petition of the Collectors of Taxes for 1765 was read and after Debate had thereon

Voted, that said Petitioners be and hereby are allowed the Sum of Nine Pence on the Pound as a Premium on the Mouys by them Collected the last Year ; a former Conditional Vote notwithstanding.

Voted, that the Sum of Nine Pence on the Pound be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing, for all such Sums as they shall Collect, provided they pay into the Town Treasury one half part of the whole Sum they are obliged to pay him, within four Months from the Time they receive the Tax Books from the Assessors, and the other half part in Three Months after ; and also pay into the

Province and County Treasuries One half part of the whole Sum they shall be obliged to pay them [679.] Respectively in Seven Months from the Time they shall receive the Tax Books from the Assessors as aforesaid, and the other half part in Five Months after; and in case either of said Collectors shall fail paying in the manner aforesaid, the Collector so failing shall not be entitled to the aforesaid Allowance of Nine Pence on the Pound; but wholly forfeit the same; provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen, for the faithful discharge of their Duty in said Office, and complying with this Vote —

Voted, that the Selectmen shall have a discretionary Power as to the payment of the Collectors Premium for the Year ensuing any former Vote notwithstanding —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Jonathan Payson Esq.
 M^r. Sampson Salter
 M^r. Edward Hollyday
 M^r. Samuel Ruggles. Jun^r. (all Sworn)

were chose into that Office —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mess^{rs}. William Fairfield
 John Kneeland
 Benjamin Church
 Belcher Noyes Esq.
 M^r. William Torrey
 M^r. Jonathan Brown
 M^r. Daniel Pecker

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing —

The Petition of sundry Inhabitants "That some Measures may [680.] Be taken for the more effectually regulating of Bakers Bread" was read — After Debate had thereon it was moved that said Petition be dismiss, and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative —

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Clerks of the Market, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Mess ^{rs} . John Welch	-	-	-	-	excused
Paul Revear	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Adam Colson	-	-	-	-	Sworn
Thomas Crafts	-	-	-	-	excused
James Thompson	-	-	-	-	sworn
Bartho. Kneeland	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Joseph Webb	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
John Lovel	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Nicholas Bowes	-	-	-	-	excused
Elisha Eaton	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Thomas Symms	-	-	-	-	Sworn
Robert Jenkins Tertius	-	-	-	-	d ^o .

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing — 5 more

M^r. John Gray

was chosen Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. William Nichols
 Andrew Symms
 Clement Collins
 Henry Allen
 Isaac Vergoose
 John Grenough
 Jacob Thayer
 Joseph Edmunds
 John Skillins
 John Sergeant
 Richard Walker
 John Champney

[681.]

Mem. all sworn.

were chose Surveyers of Boards and Shingles for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Samuel Dyer sworn
 John Dyer
 Obediah Low
 John Joy sworn
 William Crafts d°.

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Ebenezer M^c.Intosh
 Samuel Bangs
 William Andrews
 John Shepherd
 William Stevenson

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing, & all sworn

Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner
 Samuel Whitwell

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Peter Cotta - - - Sworn
 Manesseh Masters d°.
 Joseph Dyer d°.
 John Harskins
 David Spear
 Nathan Spear
 Jonathan Jenkins
 Samuel Treat
 Robert Brick Jun^r.
 Job Wheelwright
 Joshua Pico
 Benjamin Salt - - - Sworn
 Paul Baxter
 John Owen
 Thomas Knox
 Samuel White - - - d°.
 Edward Cowell - - - d°.
 Edward Potter - - - d°.
 Peter Ellis - - - d°.
 Timothy Pease - - - d°.
 Robert Treat - - - d°.
 Nathaniel Waterman - - - d°.
 Jacob Williams - - - d°.

[682.]

were chose Cullers of Staves &c. for Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. David Simens
Thomas Curtis ————— sworn

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing —

M^r. Edward Curtis - - - d^o.

was chosen Hayward for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Benjamin Edes
Thomas Chase - - - Sworn
Benjamin Homans d^o.
William Rogers d^o.
Jolly Allen, d^o.
John Adams d^o.
Nathaniel Cobbet d^o.
Jeremy Webb d^o.
Andrew Boardman d^o.
Robert Williams d^o.
Clement Jackson
Daniel Eveleigh

[683.]

were chose Scavingers for the Year ensuing —

The Selectmen

were chose Surveyors of High Ways for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. John Green and David Wheeler having at their own cost and charge, built and compleated a Fire Engine, which upon tryal does honor to the Country as well as the Constructors; the use thereof on all occasions by means of Fire that may happen they now offer the Town, provided they will keep the same in good repair, and allow the Men belonging thereto, the Exemptions and Privileges indulged the other Engine-Men — It is therefore Voted that the Town do accept of the said generous proposal, and that the said Master and Men when approved by the Selectmen, be and hereby are excused and exempted from all such Duty, and Entitled to all such Privileges and Allowances, as are the other Engine Men, and this so long as the Town shall be obliged and served with the use of said Engine

Voted that Mess^{rs}. John Muffatt
Ezekiel Price
Thomas Gray
John Boylston
Nicholas Boylston

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Accounts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are injoin'd to inspect every particular Account of the Moneys expended for the use of the Alms house; they are also impowered when they shall Audit said Accompts, to allow such of the Overseers as shall advance Moneys for the relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the Time so Advanced, till they shall have Audited said Accompts —

[684.] The Selectmen Reported on the Accompt of M^r John Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, which Accompt as entred in his Books (and on File in the Town Clerks Office) was read — whereupon it was Voted, that the same be accepted, and that M^r. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 300 Bushels of

Indian Corn and forty Bushels of Rye Meal amounting to £51 ,, 13 ,, 4 and also for the Sum of £273 ,, 18 ,, 1½ Cash now in his Hands, exclusive of the Sum of £26 ,, 13 ,, 4 for his Salary and Assistance, as charged in his Account which is hereby allowed him —

William Phillips Esq.
Joseph Jackson Esq.
William Homes Esq.

were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing; and they are desired and empowered to give all needful Directions to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the Quantity of Grain to be sold and affixing the price thereof from Time to Time —

Mess^{rs} Martin Gay
John Skinner

were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing

John Tudor Esq.
M^r. John White

were chose Surveyers of Wheat for the Year ensuing —

Voted that the Consideration of Schoolmasters Salarys and all other Salarys and Grants, be referred to next May Meeting.

Adjourned to Tuesday Morning 10. O'Clock. A M:

Tuesday Morning 10 O'Clock A : M: Met according to Adjournment —

[685.] A Letter from the Town of Plymouth directed to the Town Clerk of Boston in order to be laid before the Town at their present Meeting was accordingly laid before them, and is as follows — Vizt —

To the Respectable Inhabitants of the Town of Boston
Gentlemen

At a Time when the Rights and Liberties of this Country are invaded, and the Inhabitants threatned with the Loss of every Thing that is dear to them, when they are embarrassed with every distress that is the never failing consequence of Slavery and Poverty, no Man of Society of Men, who are Sharers in the common Calamity (unless totally destitute of every Spark of Public Virtue and Patriotism) can remain unfeeling and inactive Spectators, but must be ready on all Occasions to bless the Hearts which feel, and the Hands that exert themselves to avert the Evils threatned, and to restore that happiness which constantly attends the full Enjoyment of Natural and Constitutional Rights and Liberties —

We therefore the Inhabitants of the Town of Plymouth, animated with a Spirit of publick Virtue and Love of our Country, as well as Gratitude to all our Benefactors, and more especially to such as have distinguished themselves in the Common Cause of their Country in this Day of Distress and Difficulty, and being Assembled in Town Meeting for that purpose, as a publick Testimony of our Esteem and Gratitude, beg you to accept our united and general Thanks for the invariable Attachment you have on all Occasions and particularly the present shown to the Principles of Liberty, and for the vigorous Exertions of your Loyal and Legal Endeavours to secure to our Country the uninterrupted Enjoyment

of that Blessing, & to transmit the same intire and perfect to the latest Poterity — Instances of this much to your Honor and the Interest of your Country, Distinguish'd by the unerring Marks of Disinterestedness and Generosity crowd upon our Minds on this Occasion: But to avoid the imputation of Prolixity permit us to single out a few which are recent, and must readily occur to every one Mind, and which are sufficient of themselves to Justify our Sentiments and merit the Gratitude of every Well-wisher to his Country.

[686.] The new Regulations with Regard to Mourning which has not only saved this Country, a great and needless Expence, and in a manner abolished a ridiculous Pagentry, but produced Consequences in our Mother Country very beneficial to us; and all principally at your Expence, as your Merchants were the principal Importers and Venders of those Articles; A Measure which at the same Time that it reflects a Lustre upon your Conduct shews by the Success of it, that the People of this Country have Virtue enough to prefer its Interests to any Fashion that may stand in compition with it, however establish'd by long Custom and very particular Prejudices

The Opposition you have at all Times made, both to the Forreign & Domestick Invasion of our Rights; and particular the Legal & Warrantable Measures you have taken to prevent the Execution of the Stamp Act in this Province

The Spirited and noble Application you have made to have the Custom Houses and Courts of Justice opened in this Province upon which our welfare Peace and Tranquility so much depend —

The Testimony you have from first to last born against and the abhorrence you have expressed of all outrageous Tumults and Illegal proceedings, and their Consequences, and the Measures very early taken to restore Tranquility, and the security of Property in your Town, the Capital of this Province; and the good Example thereby given to the other Towns of that love of Peace and good order which influenced you, and which we think sufficient to destroy all those injurious reflections the work of some Peoples Imaginations; and from which they affect to draw Consequences not only disadvantageous to you, but to the whole Country.

To conclude, that you and your Posterity may ever be possessed of the full Enjoyment of that Liberty you have so laudably asserted, and contended for; that your Trade and Commerce the Source of Riches and Oppulence to this Country, may be extended and flourish; that you may ever continue to deserve and have the Justice done you to be possessed of the Love and Esteem of your Fellow Country Men who renouncing that Solecism in Politicks, which arise from an unnatural Distinction between Landed and Commercial Interests shall exert themselves to encourage your Hearts [687.] And strengthen your Hands are the sincere Wishes and ardent Prayers of your Fellow Subjects to the best of Kings, your Fellow Sufferers in the Calamity of this Country, and your Fellow Labourers in the Vine Yard of Liberty

THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF PLYMOUTH.

The Town having Considered of the Subject Matter of the above Letter, it was Voted, that M^r Samuel Adams

John Ruddock Esq.

John Hancock Esq.

be a Committee to draw up a Letter of Thanks to the Town of Plymouth.

That Article of the Warrant Viz^t “ To consider of a Proposal of the Overseers of the Poor, that the Towns Land North of the Almshouse may be improved for the use of said House ” was read, and the Question being put — Whether said Land shall be improved by the Overseers of the Poor for the use of the Almshouse — Passed in the Affermative —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to Examine the Claims of those Persons that dispute the Towns Tittle to part of the Land near the Almshouse; and that they endeavor for an amicable Settlement of any such dispute.

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t — “ To consider what is proper to be done relative to Land near the South Market, the use of which was granted to Cap^t Theophilus Frary, His Heirs &^c for Seventy Years from the Year 1695 — which is now in the Occupation of M^r Robert Hews ” — was read, whereupon Voted, that this Matter be left to the consideration of the Selectmen, who are desired to Report at the Adjournment

The Petition of sundry Inhabitants for paving Bear Lane was read, — after debate had thereon —

Voted, that the Town will pay One third part of the Expence of paving said Lane when compleated to the satisfaction of the Selectmen —

[688.] The Petition of John Child late Sealer of Leather “ that he may be Reimbursed by the Town the Charges incurred by sustaining several Suits at Law on Account of Shoes seized by him &^c ” was read — and after debate had thereon. —

Voted, that the said M^r Child's Loss be made good by the Town, after his Accompts shall be Examined, and properly Liquidated by the Selectmen —

Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are impowered and directed to set for the Abatement of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Thursday till the first Thursday in April inclusive and no longer, saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November for the Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an Opportunity of applying on the above limited Time, by reason of their being out of the Province; at which Time they are also allowed & impowered to abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent or become Bankrupts between the said last Thursday in April and the last Day of November —

The Committee Appointed the 18th of September last to Liquidate the Accompts of the several Tradesmen concerned in the Repairs of Faneuil Hall - - - Reported — That having carefully Examined the following Accompts they are of Opinion that they are Just and reasonable. and the several Persons are at this

Time Entitled to the Payment of their Respective Demands —
Viz'.

Onesiphorus Tileston Esq. - - - - -	£1287	„	6	„	2
M ^r . Samuel Ruggles - - - - -	451	„	14	„	6
M ^r . Temple Decoster - - - - -	319	„	17	„	3
Thomas Dawes Esq. - - - - -	337	„	14	„	9
M ^r . James Orr - - - - -	48	„	19	„	2½
M ^r . Josiah Waters - - - - -	170	„	—	„	7
M ^r . Edward Winter - - - - -	40	„	10	„	9
M ^r . Moses Pitcher - - - - -	130	„	10	„	4
[689.] M ^r . Joseph Shed - - - - -	42	„	4	„	0¼
M ^r . Timothy Thornton - - - - -	32	„	14	„	8
Thomas Drowne - - - - -	12	„	18	„	5½
M ^r . John McLean - - - - -	82	„	6	„	8
Isaac Greenwood - - - - -	6	„	5	„	—
	<hr/>				
	£2963	„	2	„	4¾

Besides which there is an Accompt of M^r.

Henry Christian Geyer amount^d to £173 „ 4 „ 1
 Of M^r. Ebenezer Messinger - - 48 „ — „ —
 Of which the Committee have not had
 Opportunity of being satisfied
 And John Scollay Esq. his Accompt 387 „ 17 „ 3

————— 609 „ 1 „ 4
 £3572 „ 3 „ 8

Which being already fully discharged the Committee did not
 take under their Consideration —

After Debate had upon the above Report, it was Voted that the
 same be accepted —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, That the Trades-
 men concerned in the Repairs of Faneuil Hall, shall for the
 amount of that part of said Repairs, which is not included in their
 Contract with the Town, have their Drafts on the Treasury for
 the respective Sums due to them, and that they be allowed Inter-
 est thereon from the Date of said Drafts untill the Time of Pay-
 ment. — It was further Voted, that what appears to be now due
 to the several Tradesmen to balance their Accompts, they shall
 receive Interest for, and that the Moneys arising from the Rents
 of Faneuil Hall Market, shall be appropriated to the discharge of
 the Principal and Interest of said Debts, untill the whole be paid
 by the Mony raised by Lotterys, and by the Income of said
 Market. —

Voted, that the Committee Appointed to Liquidate said Trades-
 mens Accompts be desired to compleat the Business, by Liquidat-
 ing such of those Accompts as were omitted; Their Report to be
 laid before the Town at their Adjournment, and that M^r. Edward
 Payne be added to [690.] Said Committee in the room of John
 Rowe Esq. who declines serving.

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t — “ To consider of the Desire
 of a number of the Inhabitants that some Agreement may become

into not to purchase any Lamb before a particular Time affixed by the Town" was read — whereupon —

Voted, that M^r. Nathaniel Holmes
 Samuel Swift Esq.
 M^r. Samuel Demming
 M^r. John Pidgeon
 M^r. Joseph Belknap
 Cap^t. Daniel Malcomb
 M^r. Robert Peirpoint
 M^r. John Ruggles
 Thomas Daws Esq.
 Thomas Marshall Esq.
 M^r. John Ballard
 M^r. John Mico Wendell

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to draw up such an Agreement as the Petitioners desire, and to procure Subscriptions accordingly —

Adjourned to Monday 24th. Instant 10 O'Clock A : M :

Monday March 24th. Met according to Adjournment.

Mess ^{rs} John Simkins	- - - - -	Sworn
James Bridgham		d ^o .
Benjamin Peirpoint		
Jonas Clarke	- - - - -	d ^o .
Ziphion Thayer	- - - - -	d ^o .

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing

John Avery Esq. chosen an Overseer of the Poor, having [691.] Been excused from serving in that Office.

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the said John Avery Esq. for his faithful services as an Overseer of the Poor, the last Year —

The Town brought in their Votes for one Warden, and upon sorting them it appeared that

John Leveret Esq.

was chosen a Warden for the Year ensuing.

The Town brought in their Votes for Three Fire-Wards, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Hancock Esq.

M^r. Samuel Adams - - - - - Sworn

M^r. Francis Shaw - - - - - d^o.

were chose Fire Wards for the Year ensuing —

The Town brought in their Votes for One Overseer of the Poor and upon sorting them it appear'd, that,

M^r. William Greanleaff

was chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the Year ensuing —

The Committee appointed to make answer to the Letter from the Town of Plymouth, Reported the following Draft —

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Plymouth
 Gentlemen

The Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally assembled in Faneuil Hall have received with singular pleasure, your respectful Address of the 16th. of January last: The warm Sentiments

of public Virtue which you therein express is a sufficient Evidence, that the most ancient Town in New England to whose Predecessors this Province in a particular manner is so greatly indebted for their necessary Aids in its original [692.] Settlement still retain the truly noble Spirit of our renowned Ancestors — When we recollect the ardent love of Religion and Liberty, which inspired the Breasts of those Worthys; which induced them at the Time when Tyranny had laid its oppressive Hand on Church and State in their Native Country, to forsake their fair Possessions and seek a Retreat in this distant Part of the Earth — When we reflect upon their early care to lay a solid Foundation for Learning, even in a Wilderness, as the surest if not the only Means of preserving and cherishing the Principles of Liberty and Virtue, and transmitting them to us their Posterity, our Mind is filled with deep Veneration, and we bless and revere their Memory. —

When we consider the immense Cost and Pains they were at in subduing, cultivating, and settling this Land, with the utmost Peril of their Lives; and the Surprizing increase of Dominion Strength and Riches, which has accrued to Great Britain by their Expence & Labour we confess we feel an honest Indignation to think there ever should have been any among her Sons, so ungrateful as well as unjust and Cruel as to seek their Ruin —

Instances of this too frequently occur in the past History of our Country: The Names of Randolph, of Andross and others are handed down to us with Infamy; And the Times in which we live, even these very Times, may furnish some future Historian with a Catalogue of those, who look upon our rising Greatness with an envious Eye; and while we and our Sister Colonies, have been exerting our growing Strength in the most substantial services to the Mother Country, by Art and Intrigue have wickedly attempted to deceive her into Measures to enslave us — If then Gentlemen, the Inhabitants of this Metropolis, have discovered an invariable Attachment to the Principles of Liberty, when it has been invaded: If they have made the most vigorous Exertions for our Country when she has been threatned with the Loss of every Thing that has been dear: If they have used their utmost Endeavors that she may be relieved from those Difficulties, with which She is at this Time embarrassed; If they have taken the Legal and warrantable Measures to prevent that [693.] Misfortune of all others the most to be dreaded, the Execution of the Stamp Act; and as a necessary Means of preventing it, have made any Spirited Applications for opening the Custom House and Courts of Justice; If at the same Time they have bore their Testimony against outrageous Tumults and illegal proceedings, and given any Example of the Love of Peace & good order next to the consciousness of having done their Duty is the Satisfaction of meeting with the Approbation of any of their Fellow Countrymen —

That the Spirit of our venerable Forefathers, may revive and be defused through every Community in this Land: That Liberty Civil and Religious, the grand Object of their View, may still be felt enjoy'd & vindicated by the present Generation, and the fair

Inheritance, transmitted to our latest Posterity, is the fervent wish of the Metropolis — Submitted by —

SAMUEL ADAMS
JOHN RUDDOCK
JOHN HANCOCK

Voted, that the same be accepted, and that the Town Clerk be & he hereby is directed to transmit as soon as may be to the Town Clerk of Plymouth, a fair attested Copy thereof, in order to its being laid before said Town; and that the same be published in the Publick Prints —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that there be two Persons chose as Constables for this Town in addition to the twelve already chose and sworn into that Office —

The Town brought in their Votes for two Constables, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Mess ^{rs} . Abiel Ruddock	-	-	-	Excused
James Thomas	-	-	-	d ^o .

were chose Constables —

Mess^{rs} Benjamin Clark
John Kilbey

were chose Constables for the Year ensuing —

[694.] Mr. Samuel Turner

was chose a Surveyor of Boards for the Year ensuing

It was moved and seconded that the Town reconsider their Vote relative to M^r. Childs Petition, and after some Debate had thereon it was Voted, that this Motion be taken up and considered at the next General Town Meeting —

The Representatives of the Town having expressed their Desire of being Instructed by their Constituents relative to the expediency of a Repeal or amendment of the Bankrupt Act, the Consideration of which is to come before the General Court at their next Session — It was

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to warn a Meeting of the Inhabitants that the Sense of the Town may be taken respecting this Matter, if it should appear to them that the General Assembly is like to meet at the Time to which they stand Adjourned; or in case of a dissolution of the Court, that they have an Article in the Warrant for next May Meeting for this special purpose

Voted that all Matters and Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the General Town Meeting in May next, to be then considered of and acted upon —

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honourable James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting, for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

A considerable Number of the Inhabitants of this Town Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 1st. Day of April Anno: Domini 1766 —

The Honourable James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of the Meeting —

The Moderator then acquainted the Assembly, that the probability of very soon receiving authentic Accounts of the absolute Repeal of the Stamp Act. had occasioned the present Meeting; and as this would be an Event in which the Inhabitants of this Metropolis, as well as all North America, would have the greatest Occasion of Joy, it was thought expedient by many, that this Meeting should come into Measures for fixing the Time when those Rejoicings should be made, and the manner in which they should be conducted — whereupon it was —

Voted, That the Selectmen be desired when they shall hear the certain News of the Repeal of the Stamp Act. to fix upon a Time for general Rejoicings; and that they give the Inhabitants seasonable Notice in such Manner as they shall think best —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 21st. Day of April Anno Domini. 1766 —

The Honourable James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of [696.] This Meeting, and took the Oaths required by an Act of this Province

After the Warrant for calling the Meeting had been read — Some Resolves of the House of Commons relative to American Affairs, as also sundry Extracts from late Letters received from England were also read —

After which the Town took into consideration the Article in the Warrant for calling the Meeting. (Viz^t) To agree on such Measures of Conduct as may be proper when we shall receive certain advice of the Repeal of the Stamp Act — whereup —

Voted, That the Selectmen be desired when they shall have a certain account of the Repeal of the Stamp Act to Notify the Inhabitants of the Time they shall fix upon for the general Rejoicings & to publish the following Vote — Viz^t.

Under the deepest Sense of Duty and Loyalty to our most gracious Sovereign King George, and in respect and Gratitude to the present Patriotick Ministry, M^r. Pitt, and the Glorious Majority of both Houses of Parliament, by whose Influence under Divine Providence against a most strenuous Opposition, a happy Repeal of the Stamp Act so unconstitutional as well as grievous to his Majestys good Subjects of America is attained, whereby our incontestable Right of Internal Taxation still remains to us inviolate — Voted, that at the Time the Selectmen shall appoint, every Inhabitant be desired to Illuminate his Dwelling House, and that it is the Sense of the Town, that the Houses of the Poor, as well as those where there are sick Persons and all such parts of Houses as are used for Stores together with the Houses of those (if there are any) who from certain Religeous Scruples cannot conform to this Vote, ought to be protected from all Injury; and that all Abuses and Disorders on the Evening for

Rejoycings by breaking Windows, or otherwise, if any should happen, be prosecuted by the Town —

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted unanimously, [697.] That the Majestrates of the Town; The Selectmen; Fire-Wards; Constables and Engine Men, be desired to use their utmost Endeavours to prevent any Bone-Fires being made in any part of this Town, also the throwing of Rockets, Squibs, and other Fire Works in any of the Streets of said Town except the Time that shall be appointed for general Rejoicings, and that the Inhabitants be desired for the present to restrain their Children and Servants from going abroad on Evenings —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, That for the Security of the Powder House on the Night of general Rejoicings the Selectmen be desired to Order two of the Fire Engines into the Common to be placed near said Magazine: and that the Roof thereof be well wet; and that the Air Holes be stop't with Mortar and Brick or otherwise as they may Judge proper —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that

The Hon^{ble}. John Erving Esq.

John Rowe Esq.

M^r. Samuel Adams

John Hancock Esq.

The Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq.

Thomas Cushing Esq.

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take into Consideration and Report at May Meeting, what they think may be further necessary for the Town to do, in order to testify their Gratitude to those Patriots on the other side of the Water to whose Endeavors it is owing that the Liberties of America are secured, and Love and Harmony between his Majestys Subjects in Great Britain and the Colonies, is perpetuated, by the happy Repeal of the Stamp Act —

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby [698.] are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 6th. Day of May Anno Domini. 1766 —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. M^r. Pemberton —

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting - - read —

Sundry Laws - - - - - Read

Coll^o. Joseph Jackson Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at Boston upon Wednesday the 28th. Day of May Current; and in order thereto to consider

and ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected; accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the choice of Four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen, that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded, & that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 O'Clock —

The Votes being brought in the Number of Votes were found to be 746, and upon sorting them it appeared that the Four following Gentlemen were chose — Viz. —

[699.]	The Hon ^{ble} . James Otis Esq.	- - - -	642
	Thomas Cushing Esq.	- - - -	676
	M ^r . Samuel Adams	- - - -	691
	John Hancock Esq.	- - - -	437

The choice of Representatives being over, and declared by the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw, and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant; accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew, and brought in their Votes and upon sorting them it appeared, that the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen —

M^r. Thomas Gray having excused himself from serving as a Representative, Voted unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the said Gentleman for his faithful services as a Representative of this Town in General Assembly, some Years past —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3. O'Clock. P: M:
3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment.

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants "for Paving the Street leading from Water Street into Milk Street" — was read, and after debate had thereon —

Voted, that the Town be at the Expence of Forty Five Pounds towards paving said Lane, the Land having been given by one of the Petitioners, provided the rest is made up by Subscription, and the Paving compleated to the Satisfaction of the Selectmen —

The following is the Copy of a Letter from Coll^o. Barree, Member of Parliament to James Otis Esq. as Chairman of the Committee appointed to transmit him the Thanks of the Inhabitants of this Metropolis, for [700.] His Patriotick Speech at the last Session of Parliament in favor of the Colonies, which was laid before the Town by said M^r. Otis —

Sir

It is with the highest Sense of the Honor done me I acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter dated Boston New England September 20th. with the unanimous resolution of the committee inclosed containing expressions of approbation from the Metropolis of His Majestys ancient and loyal Province of the Massachusetts Bay, which are exceeding flattering to me — During the last war, the course of my profession gave me frequent and pleasing opportunities of observing attentively the spirit, loyalty, and attachment of his Majestys North American Subjects, in support of a war begun in defence of the limits of North America, and continued to the honor and immortal glory of this Nation in every part of the world. —

My natural attachment to this country, a regard to its most solid interests, to its improvements in time of peace (which so greatly depends on the establishing our late extended commerce upon those generoüs and steady principles, which a happy experience, and the information of those most materially concerned can suggest) and to the uniting of our strength in case of any future rupture, has and will ever make me desirous of promoting every measure that may contribute to those good effects, and of strongly deprecating those of a contrary tendency. My conduct in Parliament so obligingly refer'd to, being the real sentiments of my heart, was the natural result of those considerations. The terms in which they were delivered were such as the particular circumstances of time and place first suggested, and such as I cannot possibly at this distance charge my memory with. They were not premeditated, nor are they perhaps worthy to be remembred. I must therefore beg your meditation Sir, with the respectable body whose pen you hold, to excuse my troubling them with an imperfect repetition of words in themselves of little use in North America. But if there should be any call for the like exertions in Europe. I beg leave thro. [701.] Your means to assure them that no consideration shall make me forget my duty, whensoever an occasion presents itself, of promoting to the utmost of my abilities, the united interest of Great Britain and her Colonies —

As long as the Inhabitants of Massachusetts Bay will continue to regard the motives of my conduct, and not the consequences, I do not despair of retaining, what I shall ever esteem among the greatest rewards, their approbation, of which I cannot have a more honourable or distinguishing mark than that contain'd in the last part of their resolution. A flattering request which I shall comply with as soon as possible —

My being abroad the whole summer prevented me from having* the Honor of receiving your letter sooner than the end of december; this circumstance I beg may be communicated to the gentlemen of the committee and to your respectable fellow citizens: At the same time you will accept I hope of my sincere thanks. for your very polite manner of communicating to me their sentiments, and for the trouble you have had on this occasion. I am with the greatest respect and personal regard

Sir

Your most obedient and
most humble Servant

ISAAC BARREE

London Jan^r. 11. 1766
To the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq.

Mr. Otis also laid before the Town a Letter he had Just received from the Right Honorable General Conway one of his Majestys principal Secretarys of State; the following is a Copy thereof —

S^t. James's November 10. 1765.

Sir

I had the favor of your Letter of 20th. of September last, transmitting to me the Thanks of the Town of Boston for a Speech made by me, last Session of Parliament, in favor of the Colonies. Though I am [702.] Persuaded, Sir, the Honor done me on this

Occasion is such as my feeble Efforts in a Question, where the Interest of the Colonies were concerned, could give me little pretensions to; I cannot however be less sensible of this singular Mark of Distinction from the Inhabitants of Boston: I must therefore beg thro' you, Sir, to return them my humble Thanks for this extraordinary Honor, and to assure them that my sincere and earnest Endeavours shall never be wanting to promote the Wellfare of the British Colonies; persuaded that I can give no stronger Proof of Zeal for this Country, whose Interest I hold to be inseparable from those of her Provinces; and that no true Friend to either can wish to sow or to encourage any Principles of Disgust or Division between them—

In regard to the Copy of my Speech which they do me the Honor to ask for, I must beg you, Sir, to make my excuse, as it has never been my Custom to commit to writing any weak Thoughts, I may presume at any Time to offer to Parliament; nor if it were possible at this Distance of Time, to recollect the Arguments I might have used could I think what I said on the Occasion they allude to, by any means worthy of their Attention or Acceptance.

The Honor done to me by the Gentlemen of Boston, in their Intention of allowing my Picture a Place in the Faneuil Hall, is such that I cannot but acknowledge with much Gratitude, as a singular Proof of their favourable Opinion: And since they are pleased to think it worth their Acceptance, they may depend upon my obeying their Commands upon that Subject—

I must beg leave to add to this my particular Thanks, for the very polite manner in which you have been pleased to communicate to me the above Resolutions, and to assure you of the greatest Esteem with which I am—

Sir

Your most humble
and obed^t. Servant

H. S. CONWAY

[703.] Upon considering that Clause in the Warrant. (Viz^t.) “To determine whether the Ground on the South Side and East End of the Market shall be paved” It was

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to Pave and Repair so much of the Ground within the Market Rails, at the South and East Side of the Market as they may Judge proper—

The Committee appointed to open a Subscription for raising Moneys for Building and Endowing a Bedlam Reported— whereupon Voted that said Report lay upon the Table—

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warr^t. (Viz^t.) “That the Sense of the Town may be known respecting the late Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hancock Esq. Donation towards Building a Bedlam.”

Voted, that Foster Hutchinson Esq.

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

William Phillips Esq.

Melatah Bourn Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take this Matter into

Consideration, and Report what is proper to be done by the Town, at the Adjournment of this Meeting —

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant. (Viz't.) "To determine what steps shall be taken relative to the Bankrupt Act"

Voted, that it be an Instruction to the Representatives of this Town in General Assembly, that they move for a Repeal of the present Bankrupt Act —

Voted, that the Representatives move that any Bill relative to Bankrupts, that shall be brought into the House, be laid before the Town before it shall be passed into a Law — It was further

[704.] Voted, that John Rowe Esq.

Mr. William Mullineux

William Phillips Esq.

Mr. Thomas Gray

John Avery Esq.

Nathaniel Bethune Esq.

Richard Clark Esq.

Mr. Henderson Inches

Mr. Edward Payne

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to consider and Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting their Opinion of a proper Bankrupt Bill for this Province.

Upon consideration of that Clause in the Warrant. (Viz't.) "Whether Instructions shall be given to the Representatives that may be chosen" —

Voted, that Richard Dana Esq.

Edmund Quincy, Tertius

Mr. Thomas Gray

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

Samuel Grant Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to draw up Instructions to the Representatives, and to Report the same at the Adjournment of this Meeting.

Mr Stephen Cleverly was chosen a Clerk of the Market for the Year ensuing.

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday the 26th. Instant, 10. O'Clock Before Noon —

Monday the 26th. of May. 10. O'Clock. A : M :

[705.] Town met according to Adjournment.

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 1766 —

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their Annual Meeting the 14th. of May 1764 — desiring the Selectmen to visit the several publick Schools in the Town, and to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein, as they should think proper, and to Report thereon —

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that service on Wednesday the 26. Day of June last accompanied by the following Gentlemen — Viz't.

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq.

Thomas Flucker Esq.

Harrison Gray Esq.
 James Bowdoin Esq.
 William Brattle Esq.
 Nathaniel Sparhawk. Esq.
 The Representatives of the Town
 The Overseers of the Poor
 The Rev^d. Joseph Sewall D : D :
 Charles Chauncy D : D :
 Jonathan Mayhew D : D :
 M^r. Samuel Mather
 M^r. Andrew Elliot
 M^r. Samuel Checkley
 M^r. Ebenezer Pemberton
 M^r. Mather Byles
 M^r. Samuel Checkley Jun^r.
 M^r. Samuel Cooper
 M^r. Joseph Jackson
 Coll^o. Salstonstall of New London
 Nathaniel Thwing Esq.
 James Pitts Esq.
 John Tudor Esq.
 D^r. Phil : God : Cast
 M^r. Samuel Austin
 M^r. William Parkman
 Cap^t. Ichabod Jones
 M^r. Alexander Hill
 M^r. Jonathan Williams
 Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
 M^r. Samuel Pemberton
 M^r. Mansfield of Marblehead
 D^r. Thomas Bullfinch
 D^r. Nathaniel Perkins
 Cap^t. Phillips of Castle William
 M^r. Johu Mico Wendell
 The Surveyer General
 M^r. John Smith
 M^r. Peter Cherdon
 Henry Lloyd Esq.
 James Beauteneau Esq.
 M^r. Edward Payne

[706.]

And found the South Grammar School had 119 Scholars
 the North Grammar School about - - - 47 Scholars
 the South Writing School - - - - - 250 Scholars
 the North Writing School - - - - - 246 Scholars
 the Writing School in Queen Street - - 246 Scholars
 all in very good order —

JOSHUA HENSHAW	}	Selectmen of Boston.
JOSEPH JACKSON		
BENJAMIN AUSTIN		
SAMUEL SEWALL		
JOHN RUDDOCK		
JOHN HANCOCK		

[707.] Voted, that the above Report be accepted and that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to visit the publick Schools the Year ensuing, and that they desire such Gentlemen to accompany them therein, as they shall think proper, and convenient, and that they Report thereon —

The Committee appointed to examine the Accounts of Mr. David Jeffries Town Treasurer have attended that service, and find the same right Cast and well Vouched, in which he charges himself with sundry Fines, Rents and other Incomes of the Town as also with the Tax of £5000 — all which amount to the Sum of £12914 ., 1 ., 5½ including the balance of old Account —

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abate-ments made the Collectors amounting to £1145 ., 15 ., 3¾ by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3326 ., 8 ., 9 of which he has paid £2617 ., 16 ., 11¼ and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor, which contain the charges of the Alms house amounting to £2658 ., 17 ., 7½^d. of which he has paid £1464 ., 17 ., 10½. Also by sundry Sums paid for Interest amounting to £207 ., 17 ., 10½ — the whole amounting to £7338 ., 19 ., 6¾ —

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very particular manner; and have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers of the Poor for the amount of their Drafts, and every other branch of publick Charge, amounting in all as above to £7338 ., 19 ., 6¾ as by Account of Town Treasury in the Town Treasurers Books, Balance whereof being £5575 ., 1 ., 10¾ is carried to the Credit of new Account —

Which Report and Account being read — Voted, that the same be and hereby is accepted —

The Committee appointed to draw up Instructions for the Representatives of the Town, Reported the following Draft —

To the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. Thomas Cushing Esq. Mr. Samuel Adams, and John Hancock Esq.

[708.] Gentlemen

The trust we your constituents have reposed in you, by chusing you to represent us in the approaching general assembly of this Province, is of so important a nature, that nothing short of an intire confidence in your wisdom and integrity, could have prevailed on us to have devolved it upon you. And although it is not customary for us to give Instructions to our representatives, for their conduct in all cases, or upon all occasions, yet we hold the right of so doing, whenever we think fit to be sacred and unalienable. The present situation of this Province in particular, of North America in general, and of Great Britain and her Colonies, as a Nation, is such, that notwithstanding our confidence in your abilities, we apprehend it not improper for us to give you our advice, and instructions upon some of the important affairs which may come before you in that assembly: And we expect that you regulate your conduct therein accordingly —

In the first place, as to this province in particular, it is our advice and instruction, that you endeavor as far as in you lieth, to support all the fundamental laws of our constitution, and maintain the authority of government upon every occasion. — That you do

all in your power to prevent money, or any pretence whatsoever, being drawn out of the publick Treasury, contrary to the appropriations thereof; and that if any such drafts should ever be made, you bear due testimony against it. —

That you be not persimonious in the support of executive officers of government, but at the same time use all your influence against any one officers holding two or more places inconsistent or interfering with each other. — That you take particular care in your choice of councilers and other officers of the government for the ensuing year, that they be men of integrity, and wisdom, lovers of liberty, and of our civil and ecclesiastical constitution; not giving your suffrage for any whose characters are doubtful, or who are of a timid or wavering disposition. — That you bring forward and promote such an order as shall make the debates in the house of representatives as public as those in the House of Commons in Great Britain that you be very watchful over our Just rights, liberties and privileges [709.] And give us notice whenever you apprehend them in danger; and for the total abolishing of slavery from among us; that you move for a law, to prohibit the importation and purchasing of slaves for the future. —

That you support and promote the commercial interests of this province on all occasions, as we apprehend the prosperity and increase thereof in a great measure depends upon the flourishing State of its trade: And that you by no means consent to the laying any unjust burden thereon, ever giving us the earliest notice of such an attempt. That you also encourage husbandry in all its branches, and that spirit of industry, frugality and oeconomy, which we rejoice to find hath already taken place, and so much increased among us of late. — That you oppose any grants for erecting, maintaining, or garrisoning any useless or unnecessary Forts or fortresses, in any part of this province; and if any such fortresses be now garrisoned and maintain'd at the public expence, that you do your utmost that such greivances may be speedily redressed. That you at the same time duly support and encourage our seminaries of learning, by a suitable liberality to the governors and instructers thereof, more agreeable to the importance of their office than to the parsimony heretofore observed in grants for that purpose; since we apprehend that learning is the surest support of our constitution; science being the handmaid of liberty, while ignorance is the nurse of slavery. —

In the next place with respect to North America in general, it is our advice and instruction, that you keep up a constant and friendly intercourse with the other English Governments on the Continent: That you conciliate divisions and differences if any be now subsisting, or should hereafter arise; ever preferring their friendship and confidence, to the demands of rigorous Justice without them. — In the last place as to Great Britain & her Colonies as a Nation — It is our advice and instruction, that on all proper occasions you openly profess our duty and loyalty to the King; and a constitutional subordination to parliament. That you treat his Majestys Representatives, and all his other officers here, with due respect; being at the same time vigilant and Jealous, of

our Just rights liberties and privileges ; in all [710.] Cases protesting against and counteracting, with decent firmness every attempt in the least to abridge or infringe them. That you endeavor to promote that harmony, which ought ever to subsist between Great Britain and her Colonies —

The foregoing Report having been read several times, and duly considered: It was Voted, unanimously, that the same be accepted —

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the Donation of the late Honorable Thomas Hancock Esq. for building an Hospital or Bedlam for the reception of such unhappy persons as it may please God in his providence to deprive of their reason — Report —

That they have met and considered of the same, and it appearing to the Committee that the Hon^{ble}. Gentleman deceased for some years before his death being fully convinced of the necessity of having such a House, generously laid a foundation for the same by the bequest of Six hundred Pounds lawful money, and it being the sense of the Town that such an House is much wanted, they accordingly by their Vote passed the 25th. March 1765 readily accepted of said Donation — The Committee are therefore of Opinion that the Town immediately proceed to Erect or procure a Building suitable to answer the noble Design of M^r. Hancock ; but as the Sum by him given is insufficient for effecting it, and a very considerable additional Sum will be wanted to compleat said Building, and supplying it with all Necessarys, the Committee would propose that the Town apply to the General Court for their assistance therein, and that this Meeting be Adjourned to some further Day, in order to know what the General Court shall have done in this matter, that so the Town may regulate its further proceedings accordingly ; the Committee being of Opinion that it is an affair of such importance and under such Circumstances as that it will not admit of any further delay.

The above Report having been read and considered — Voted, unanimously, that the same be accepted —

It was further Voted, that,

The Hon^{ble} Samuel Wells Esq.
 Samuel Sewall Esq.
 Benjamin Kent Esq.
 Foster Hutchinson Esq.
 Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
 William Phillips Esq.
 Joseph Jackson Esq.

[711.]

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to prefer a Petition to the General Assembly to obtain some addition to the Donation of the late Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hancock Esq. for building a Bedlam in order to effect the purposes intended by the noble design of the Bequest —

The Committee appointed to consider and Report at this Adjournment, their Opinion of a proper Bankrupt Bill for this Province, desired further Time to consider the same which was granted accordingly.

Voted, that the Sum of Five Thousand Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for relief of the Poor, and defraying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Peleg Wiswall for his Salary as Master of the North Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Samuel Holyoke for his Salary as Master of the Writing School [712.] In Queen Street for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^r. John Procter for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Abiah Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Tileston for his Salary as Master of the North Writing School for the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds, be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the further Sum of Forty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Lovel as an encouragement for him to remain and exert himself in the service of the Town the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid [713.] Unto M^r. Josiah Langdon for his Salary as Usher of the North Grammar School the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^r. James Carter for his Salary as Usher of the North Writing School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it

shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Forty Pounds be allowed and paid unto Mr. Abiah Holbrook Master of the Writing School in the Common, — for providing an Assistant the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto Mr. David Jeffries for his Services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expence in that Office —

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed and empower'd to allow the several Schoolmasters Interest on the Sums due to them from the Date of their Warrants to the Time of payment

The Committee appointed to take into consideration and Report at this Meeting “ what they shall apprehend may be further necessary for the Town to do in order to testify their Gratitude to those Patriots on the other side of the Water to whose endeavours it is owing that the Liberties of America are secured and Love & Harmony between his Majestys Subjects in Great Britain and the Colonies is perpetuated by the happy Repeal of the Stamp Act ” Reported accordingly, and upon a motion made by said Committee for leave to withdraw their Report — [714.] Leave was granted for that purpose —

Voted, that James Otis Esq. the Moderator

Richard Dana Esq.

Samuel Wells Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

Benjamin Kent Esq.

be added to the above Committee who are desired to make Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Wednesday the 2^d. Day of July next 10. O'Clock A : M :

Wednesday the 2^d Day of July Met according to Adjournment —

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to act upon the List of Jurors —

Voted, that all Matters & Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the next General Town Meeting to be then considered and acted upon —

Voted unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[715.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 8th. Day of October Anno Domini 1766 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read

The Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, and upon sorting them it appeared that the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen by a great majority —

Upon a Motion made and seconded the following Vote was passed unanimously —

Whereas His Excellency the Governor has been pleased lately to Convene before him in Council Stephen Greanleaff Esq. Sheriff of the County of Suffolk William Sheaff Esq. Deputy Collector, and Benjamin Hallowell Esq. Comptroller of His Majestys Customs for the Port of Boston, and sundry other Persons Inhabitants of this Town, and to Administer Oaths to the same Persons, and to take their Depositions in Writing relating to the proceedings of those Officers, and the behavior of a number of People, while those Officers were in search of Counterband Goods pretended to be in the Dwelling House of Cap^t. Daniel Malcomb of this Town, which same Depositions it is said contain Opinions Representations and Assertions which taken by themselves and unaccompanied with a full and true Representation of that Affair may be construed in such a manner as greatly to effect and prejudice the Trade Commerce and Reputation of this Metropolis and of the Province in general — And whereas it has been suggested that the same Testimony, contrary to the advice of his Majestys Council, are about to be transmitted home, although not suffered to be Recorded, but kept from public view —

Voted, that the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq.

[716.]

Joseph Jackson Esq.

John Hancock Esq.

William Phillips Esq.

M^r. Timothy Newell

John Rowe Esq.

M^r. Samuel Adams

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

be a Committee to wait upon his Excellency the Governor in behalf of the Town, and to desire he would be pleased to give the Secretary Orders to furnish the Town Clerk with Copies of all the Depositions relating to the Information given to the Custom house Officers, and the proceedings therein, that so the Town having Knowledge of their Accusers, and of the nature and design of the Testimonys taken, may have it in their power to rectify mistakes, and counterwork the designs of any who would represent them in a disadvantageous Light to his Majestys Ministers —

The Town then took into Consideration the Clause in the Warrant Viz^t — “To determine whether they will give their Representatives Instructions relative to a Reimbursement being made those Gentlemen who suffered by the violences of Persons unknown in the Month of August 1765” — when the following Vote passed unanimously —

Whereas the Inhabitants of this Town have ever held the violent outrages of Persons unknown in the late Times of distress in the utmost detestation and abhorrence, and from a sense of duty as well as Just indignation at the ravages committed on the properties of diverse of their Fellow Subjects and Citizens on the

2^d.th of August 1765. took the earliest opportunity to exert their strenuous endeavors, in aid of the civil authority to restore peace order and tranquility : which were accordingly in one day restored and have been ever since preserved. And whereas his Majesty has been pleased *only to recommend* it to the General Assembly of this Province to make up the losses of the Sufferers in the late unhappy Times, although his Excellency the Governor has thought fit to *interpret* the same as a *Requisition* so *peremptory & authoritative* as to preclude not only all controversy & debate, but even deliberation with regard to a compliance. —

[717.] From no regard to said *interpretation*, but in dutiful respect to the mild recommendation of our most gracious Sovereign, in humanity and generosity towards those Gentlemen who have suffered in a manner that no man ought, especially in a state of civil society —

Voted, that on application of such Sufferers to the General Assembly in a Parliamentary way, the Representatives of this Town be directed, and they are accordingly directed in their best discretion to use their influence, that such losses be made up as far as may be, in a manner the most loyal and respectful with regard to his Majesty, the most constitutional and safe with regard to our invaluable rights & privileges and the most humane and benevolent with regard to the Sufferers —

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P : M :

Met according to Adjournment.

The Committee appointed in the Forenoon to wait upon his Excellency Reported, that they had accordingly waited upon his Excellency, and presented him with a copy of the vote of the Town — Whereupon his Excell^y was pleased to say, that by order of Council the Depositions mentioned were to be kept secret ; but that he should take advice of Council, and if they should advise him he had in himself no difficulty, as to complying with the request of the Town —

After which the Town Clerk having received the following Vote of Council, together with the Copys of said Depositions, laid the same before the Town — The Vote of Council is as follows, Viz'.

In Council October 8 1766.

A Committee of the Town of Boston having laid before his Excellency in Council the Copy of a Vote of the said Town passed this Day in Town Meeting desiring Copies of certain Depositions taken in Council relative to the proceedings of the Sheriff of the County of Suffolk, The Deputy Collector of the Customs, and the Comptroller for the Port of Boston, and the behavior [718.] Of a number of People while those Officers were in search of Counterband Goods ; His Excellency thereupon took the advice of Council, who advised that the Secretary have leave to give out the Copies aforesaid But in as much as it is suggested in the said Vote that the said Testimonys contrary to the advice of his Majesty's Council are about to be transmitted home, although not Suffered to be Recorded, but kept from public view — *Advised and Ordered* that the Secretary acquaint the said Committee that the Council have never given any advise either for or against the

said Testimonies being transmitted, and that no Copies have as yet been taken out of the Office —

A true Copy from the Council Minutes

Att. JOHN COTTON D. Secretary

The above Vote or order of Council together with the Depositions being read, the Town came into the following Vote —

Voted, that the Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq.

M^r. Samuel Adams

John Rowe. Esq.

John Hancock. Esq.

M^r. Edward Payne

M^r. Edward Quincy Tertius

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to take these Depositions into consideration; to procure such Evidences as may be further necessary to set this matter in its true light, and Report the same at the Adjournment of this Meeting, together with their Opinion what may be further necessary to be done by the Town in order to prevent the ill consequences that may arise by means of a partial representation —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the above Votes be published in the public Prints —

The Petition of Enoch Brown “that a small peice of Land on the North side of Boston Neck may be Leased to him for a term of Years” [719.] Was read — whereupon Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to treat with him and to Lease said Peice of Land for a term of Time not exceeding Seven Years —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants, “that some method may be come into to repair and secure the main Street leading to the Fortification, which has been much damaged by the Inroads of the Sea” was read, and after debate had thereon —

Voted, that the Selectmen be a Committee to call upon the Proprietors of Land near the Fortification to fulfill the Conditions upon which those Lands were granted them —

A motion was made and seconded that the Selectmen be desir'd as soon as the above Proprietors have done their part of the Repairs, to compleat the remainder, and the Question was accordingly put — but the Town apprehending that those Repairs lay wholly with those Proprietors it passed in the negative —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants “that the Clock at Christ Church, might be Repair'd and kept so at the public Charge, for the conveniency of that part of the Town” was read, and after Debate had thereon — Voted, that the Prayer of the Petition be granted —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. “To consider what is further necessary to be done for the preservation of the Towns interest near the North Battery,” was read and considered, whereupon

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to take immediate care that the same be repaired and secured for the benefit of the Town

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Wednesday the 22^d. Instant 10. O'Clock A : M :

Wednesday October 22^d. Met according to Adjournment

[720.] The Committee appointed to consider the Depositions said to be taken in Council relative to Cap^t. Malcoms affair, and to take such Evidences as were necessary to set that matter in its true light, laid the several Testimonys taken, before the Town, which were distinctly read — they also Reported the Draft of a Letter to be sent to such Gentlemen in London as they might Judge proper, which Draft being read and considered — Voted, that the same be accepted —

It was then moved and Voted, that the Report be Recommended and the Committee desired to make an addition to their Draft in order to represent the suddenness of the Mob rising in the Night of the 26th. of August 1765, and the exertions immediately made by some of the Inhabitants to suppress or quiet those People — As also the method not long since taken to misrepresent not only particular Gentlemen, but even the whole Trading Interest by transmitting home Affidavits taken relative to a Counterband trade in so private a manner, that the first notice thereof, was given us by our friends in England — And that the Town will Reimburse any Charge that may rise in the course of conducting our defence if there should be occasion — It was further Voted, that when the above additions are made the Committee are desired to forward fair Copys of said Letter and Depositions to Dennis Deberdt Esq. Merch^t. in London, and Agent for our House of Representatives to make such use of the same as he may Judge proper and expedient —

A Motion was made and seconded that the above Committee might also be desired to insert in their Letter some thing relative to what was mentioned and asserted by several Gentlemen, that the Affidavits relative to Cap^t. Malcom were not properly taken in Council or to be sent home with consent of Council notwithstanding the Attestations thereto — but upon one of the Representatives rising up and declaring that as soon as the General Court met, he would make a Motion in the House of Representatives for a Parliamentary enquiry into the conduct of the Council in this and similar Occasions; the Person who made this Motion, desired that it might be withdrawn, which was accordingly granted —

[721.] It was moved and seconded and the Question accordingly put — Whether the Town will Reconsider their Vote passed at a late Meeting, relative to M^r. Enoch Browns Lease of Land on Boston Neck, when it passed in the negative —

It was moved and seconded that the Town Treasurer have leave to pass his negotiable Notes to the Tradesmen concerned in the Repairs of Faneuil Hall agreeable to the tenor of a former Vote and in which the terms of payment are to be ascertained — the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the affirmative

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted. that the Selectmen have leave to issue the Affair of Hews Lilly & Company, respecting Land formerly improved by M^r. Frary, and the Buildings lately Erected thereon, as they may Judge most for the Interest of the Town —

Voted, that all Matters & Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting, be and hereby are referred over to the next General Town Meeting to be then considered & acted upon

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honble James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

The following Letter was wrote Dennis Deberdt Esq. by order of the Town

Sir

The Freeholders & other Inhabitants [722.] Of the Town of Boston being legally assembled in Faneuil Hall have appointed as a committee to address you on their behalf and to beg your friendly assistance as you shall Judge necessary in an affair in which they apprehend their reputation and interest may be greatly concerned —

Before we proceed to the particular matter which is the occasion of our writing we beg leave to observe, that upon the happy repeal of the late Stamp Act, we were informed that our adversarys had even predicted that America would receive the news in a manner haughty and disrespectful to his Majesty and the Parliament — And we have seen with astonishment and indignation in the protest of some of the Lords against the repeal, that one reason of their Lordships protest was, that they had been made acquainted that it was the design of the Americans to bring the authority of Parliament for the future into contempt. We have reason to believe that the decency which was observed by persons of every rank in all the Collonies in their public rejoicings upon that memorable occasion has convinced the sensible and impartial part of the Nation that such apprehensions and predictions were without Just grounds, and we flatter ourselves that their lordships may by this time have reason to conclude that their information from this side the water was at least sudden and injudicious, and perhaps the effect of a deep rooted prejudice against the colonies, a strong desire to have the act enforced, and a determination at all hazards, to prevent its repeal: The truth is the Colonies who universally pride themselves in being british subjects, and have the warmest sense of the blessings of the british constitution, for ever consider the act as a violation of that happy constitution, and they have the satisfaction of being informed that this opinion was supported by a number of the most illustrious as well as respectable of both houses of parliament — In this view of the nature of the act the colonys first petitioned against it even when it was a bill, but without success, and afterwards came into resolution to transmit to posterity their sense of it with assurance that if it was finally put into execution it would not be with their consent. The people universally opposed the act but at the same time discovered the most zealous attachment to his Majestys person and government, & the strongest affection to their fellow subjects the people of Great Britain — This we know some of our [723.] Enemies have endeavoured to represent as a paradox, and from an uneasiness or if they please an opposition to a single act upon apprehension of its being unconstitutional they

would infer a settled design to bring the whole authority of parliament into contempt as if it could not possibly be supposed of an affectionate and dutiful son whose reverence for his fathers authority could never be impeached that yet in a single instance might see the unreasonableness of his fathers command and with the deepest regret be even ready to refuse obedience. An opposition to an act of parliament merely from a regard to the constitution cannot surely be look'd upon as a contempt of the authority of government since government it self is built upon & circumscribed by the constitution — or in other words to contend for the grand design and ends for which government was originally design'd and instituted is the best if not the only way to support its authority. The colonys were discontented at the act because they thought it over lap'd the bounds of the constitution — that it defeated one of the essential designs of government in the security of property — if they were in an error it was an error of their Judgement only of which however they have never yet been convinced — to insinuate that the opposition to the act was mere pretence and that the design to the colonys was to weaken the Just authority of parliament and by degrees to shake off a constitutional dependence is insupportable by a single fact or the least shadow of reason it is base ungenerous & unjust

This Town has always been very careful during the late times of calamity to preserve as much as possible good order among its inhabitants, of which they gave an early proof when a dangerous mob arose and some outrages were committed by persons as yet unknown a good deal of mischief has been as all the world knows have been told, however after all the exaggerations the whole damage is short of £1000 — but it will appear the less surprizing that so much was done when it is considered that the mob was sudden and unexpected and appear'd so furious as to occasion a general consternation, & besides it being in the night it was not easy to distinguish between them and the innocent people. — Yet the inhabitants were far from being inactive in their endeavors to suppress immediately, they made diverse attempts and took every step that could be thought of amidst the confusion. A number went to the governors house to take his excellencys orders but he [724.] Was not in town — from whence one would conclude that he was no more apprehensive of such a tumult from any appearances than others were. If there had been any reason to suspect it we presume his Excell^{ty}. care for the peace and order of the government would have procured the first intelligence, and that he would have thought it his duty to have been present or at least that he would have taken the necessary precautions and given orders to have prevented it — but the Inhabitants were left to do the best they could, and there is no doubt but much more mischief would have been done if they had not made use of art and perswasion when they fortunately wanted the countenance of his Excellencys authority As a town they express'd their detestation of such proceedings early the next day, and assured the civil majestrate that they were ready to assist to their utmost in restoring the peace of the town as you will see by the inclosed vote, and we may venture

to assure you that the efforts of persons of every order & condition in town in consequence of this resolution was the principal means of suppressing the mob which was done in one day Yet we have been ungratefully & publickly charged with being tame spectators of this outrage and have been told that our reputation suffers much in the opinion of the world on this account — But whatever representation may have been made to our prejudice, which we think we have some good reason to suspect, our most inveturate enemy dare not openly assert that the civil authority in this county & even thro' the province has not as good reason to be assured of the assistance of the people in the legal exercise of power as in any country in England. —

This leads us to give you an account of some late occurances in this town which is the particualr occasion of our troubling you with his letter A few weeks past the collector and comptroller of his Majestys custom for this port having as they said an information that goods illegally imported were lodged in the custody of one M^r. Malcomb an inhabitant of the town they accordingly repaired to his house accompanied with the Sheriff of the county & there demanded an entry into his cellars M^r. Malcomb admitted them into every Appartment saving one which being let he told them the key was not in his possession [725.] They threatned to enter by force which M^r. Malcomb told them they must do at their peril — however not having sufficient authority as they apprehended, they then retired, M^r. Malcomb supposing they would return, determined to fasten his house that if they entred it should be forceably, being assured from the declaration of the person who hired the aforesaid cellar & his own knowledge of the other appartment that no counterband goods were there. — The officers returned in the afternoon & after some attempt tho' without violence to get an entry they again retired and came no more.

His Excellency our governor has been pleased to summon the officers and sheriff before mentioned, and some of the persons to give their depositions respecting this matter — The town thinking it unreasonable & a grievance that evidences should be taken exparte touching the conduct of any of their inhabitants at their meeting appointed a committee to wait on the governor and pray his Excellency to give orders to the secretary to communicate to the town clerk copys of the depositions which was afterwards done. Upon a perusal of them the town apprehended that they contained a partial account of the behavior of the people who from mere curiosity had got together, that they tended to corroborate the designs of our enemies and might be made the ground's of further misrepresentations, and therefore directed their committee to take the depositions of other persons of credit who were present, copys of which together with those taken before the governor in council are inclosed. —

It is apprehended that it is his excellencys design to transmit his account of this matter to the ministry, and therefore the town beg the favor of you to make enquiry whether he has so done and in case he has that you would cause to be laid before the Ministry the whole state of the matter — We have the more reason to apprehend

that this step will be taken as things of this sort have been heretofore done: There is a set of men in America who are continually transmitting to the mother country odious and false accounts of the collonys; which is a crime of the most dangerous tendency. It is probable it has already had its ill effect in exciting a groundless Jealousy in the Nation, one may if not checked [726.] Too soon prove fatal to both countrys. It is not long since the depositions of a number of persons were clandestinely & illegally taken indirect terms, prejudicing the characters of some gentlemen of fortune and reputation in this town, and representing the merchants of the province in general as setting up in opposition to the acts of parliament for the regulation of trade, than which nothing can be more notoriously false and injurious. One of their Deponents was a person of the most infamous character whose name is Richardson. This fellow has for a long time subsisted by the business of an informer & is said to be such a one as was never encouraged under any administration but such as those Nero or Caligula—that the evidence of this detestible person might have its weight they gave him the addition of Esq.— We say those depositions were clandestine because they were taken exparte—the person injured by them were never notified as law & common equity requires, and the first notice they had of them was from their friends on your side the water, after they had made the impression that was intended. If such managements as these are allowed, what man or what corporation is secure from proscriptions. We must confess that the whole affair in all its circumstances will appear too trifling to claim the attention of the governor or the town, but the hopes of defeating the designs of their enemies, and an earnest desire to stand fair in the mind of their Sovereign and his ministry as well as their friends & all good men at home especially at this Juncture: they hope will excuse their giving you this trouble—I am

Sir

Your most humble servant

JAMES OTIS

P: S: The Town have passed a Vote to reimburst any charge in your conducting this Affair—

P Order of the Committee

[727.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 1st. Day of December Anno Domini 1766.

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read —

The Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting and upon sorting them it appear'd that the Honourable James Otis Esq. was chosen by a great majority —

That Clause in the Warrant. Viz^t. — “That the Sense of the Inhabitants may be taken respecting a Bill now pending in the House of Representatives, entitled, *An Act for granting compensation to the Sufferers and of free and general pardon, Indemnity and Oblivion to the Offenders in the late Times*” was read, and the

Bill laid before the Town for its consideration; and the Town apprehending said Bill to be agreeable to his Majestys gracious *Recommendation* — Voted, that the Representatives be and they hereby are Instructed to use their Endeavors to the passing of said Bill into a Law for the several purposes therein mentioned —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — M^r. Samuel Adams, John Rowe and John Hancock Esqrs. were appointed a Committee to consider of an Address to Cap^t. Lewis Gideon Esq. and having Reported the following Vote was come into —

Whereas John Lewis Gideon Esq. Commander of His Majestys Ship Jamaica, has upon all occasions during his station here, for about three Years past, discovered a readiness to do every thing in his power for promoting the Interest of the Province, and of his Town in particular, and by his behavior and good services has given great satisfaction to the Town.

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and [728.] hereby are given to the said John Lewis Gideon Esq. for his afores^d. services during his Station here, and the Honourable James Otis Esq. John Rowe Esq. John Hancock Esq. M^r. Samuel Adams Esq. Thomas Cushing Esq. are desired to wait upon him and in the Name of the Town present him with their Thanks, and express their good Wishes for his safe Voyage and Prosperity.

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday the 8th. Instant 9 O'Clock A : M :

Monday December 8th. 9 O'Clock A : M : Met according to Adjournment.

The Committee appointed to present John Lewis Gideon Esq. the Compliments of the Town Reported his answer —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants “That the Street near the Old Salutation Ferry may be widened” was read and considered — whereupon — Voted, that this Petition be referred to the Gentlemen the Selectmen, for them to act thereon as they may think proper —

The Moderator having received a Letter from a number of the Merchants of New York respecting the present Incumbrances on Trade by means of some late Acts of Parliament and other Regulations, did agreeable to their desire lay the same before the Town, which was read to the Inhabitants by the Town Clerk —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the business thereof —

Then the meeting was dissolved.

[729.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and others Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town Meeting at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 7th. of January Anno Domini 1766.

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read

The Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, and upon sorting them it appeared that the Honourable James Otis, Esq. was chosen —

The Petition of Mess^{rs}. Ephraim & Ebenezer Perry setting forth That they are desirous of purchasing or otherwise of hireing a peice of the Town Land Just without the Fortification Gates on the South Eastern side of the Neck, untill it comes to the Land Leased to M^r. Sutton Byles, together with the Flatts so far as low Water Mark — also proposing to Erect a Dwelling House, Wharff and other Buildings upon said Land, provided it be Leased to them for a number of Years, on such terms and securitys as may be agreed upon — was read, and after debate had thereon

Voted, that Thomas Daws Esq.

M^r. Ezekiel Price

M^r. Jonathan Amory

John Hancock Esq.

M^r. John Ballard

John Rowe Esq.

William Phillips Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take the Petition under consideration and Report as soon as may be what they Judge will be for the Interest of the Town in this Matter —

That Clause in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “ Whether the Town will appoint a Committee to treat with a Committee of the General Court, relative to the [730.] Disposal of the Towns Interest in the Court House,” was read and considered whereupon —

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee for the purpose mentioned in said Clause —

That Clause in the Warrant Viz^t. “ Whether the Town will be at the Expence of purchasing a new Clock for the Old Brick Church, the present being represented as not worth repairing ” - - -

was read and debate had thereon whereupon — Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to send to England for a Clock at the Expence of the Town —

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “ What shall be the Tenor of the Votes, Voted by the Town at their late Meeting to be given by the Treasurer to the Tradesmen who repaired Faneuil Hall for the balance of their Accounts ” was read and considered — whereupon

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and hereby is impowred and directed to give said Tradesmen negotiable Notes of the common Tenor, payable on demand, with lawful Interest untill paid —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the rest of Faneuil Hall Tradesmens Accounts be drawn for so soon as liquidated —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honourable James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[VOL. V. OF THE ORIGINAL BOOKS.]

[1.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the ninth Day of March Anno Domini 1767.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. M^r. Mather.

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read.

Sundry Laws enjoyn'd to be read at this Meeting, were accordingly read.

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island as required by an Act of this Province —

William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing and having taken the Oath respecting the receiving and paying Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty, which Oaths were Administered to him by his Honor Foster Hutchinson Esq.

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted it appear'd that

Coll^o. Joseph Jackson
 Samuel Sewall Esq.
 John Ruddock Esq.
 John Hancock Esq.
 William Phillips Esq.
 M^r. Timothy Newell
 John Rowe Esq.

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing —

[2.] The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Overseers of the Poor and upon sorting them it appeared that

The Hon ^{ble} . James Pitts Esq.	excused
Melatih Bourn Esq.	d ^o .
Isaac Smith Esq.	d ^o .
M ^r . William Whitwell	Sworn
M ^r . Jonathan Mason	excused
M ^r . Henderson Inches	d ^o .
M ^r . Ebenezer Storer	d ^o .
M ^r . William Greanleaff	Sworn
William White Esq.	d ^o .
M ^r . Edward Payne	excused
M ^r . Joseph Waldo	Sworn
Benjamin Austin Esq.	excused

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing —

Isaac Smith Esq. Melatiah Bourn Esq. and Mr. Henderson Inches having excused themselves from serving as Overseers of the Poor the Year ensuing —

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the above named Gentlemen for their faithful services as Overseers of the Poor a number of Years past —

The Town brought in their Votes for a County Treasurer which were sealed up and delivered to Mr. Constable Barbour to be returned to the Court of Sessions —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them it appeared that

[3.] Joseph Scott Esq.
 Cap^t. John Bradford
 Mr. Ephraim May
 Mr. Nathan Spear
 Mr. Nathaniel Wales
 Mr. Joseph Waldo
 Mr. James Barrick (excused)
 Mr. John Preston
 Mr. Edward Grant
 Mr. Joseph How
 Mr. Samuel Torrey
 Mr. Daniel Hubbard (excused)

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing — & all sworn

Upon a Motion made and seconded, the Question was accordingly put — Whether Constables and Collectors of Taxes, shall be chose seperate — Passed in the Affermative —

Voted that the Sum of Five Pounds be Remitted out of the Ten Pound Fine to such Persons as shall be chose into the Office of Constables for the Year ensuing and shall decline serving —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Constables, the Persons chose into that Office, and also sworn are

Mess^{rs}. Augustus Hail
 Francis Salmon
 Peter Barbour
 Edward Baker
 Hezekiah Usher
 Benjamin Clark
 Benjamin Adams
 Lindsey George Wallis
 William Rogers
 Daniel Berry
 John Gabriel
 Edward Brazier

[4.] Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned to Three O'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment.

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire-Wards, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Newman Grenough Esq.
 John Rowe Esq.
 Mr. William Cooper

Mr. John Mico Wendell
 Coll^o. Thomas Marshall
 William Homes Esq.
 Mr. Joseph Tyler
 Jonathan Williams Esq.
 Cap^t. Adino Paddock
 Mr. James Richardson
 Cap^t. William Downe Cheever
 Cap^t. Benjamin Waldo
 John Hancock Esq.
 Mr. Samuel Adams
 Mr. Francis Shaw (excused)
 Cap^t. Martin Gay

were chose Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing. —

The Town brought in their Votes for twelve Clerks of the Market, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

Mess^{rs}. Joseph Webb
 Steven Cleverly
 John Lowell
 Ziphion Thayer
 John Simkins
 James Bridgham
 Nathaniel Balch
 Thomas Knight
 Joseph Edwards Jun^r.
 William Baker Jun^r.
 Thomas Chase
 Joshua Gardner

[5.]

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Timothy Newell
 Gershon Flogg

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing —

The Town brought in their Votes for a Town Treasurer, and upon sorting them it appeared that Mr. David Jeffries was chosen, and having taken the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty, which Oaths were administered to him by

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants respecting the Monys due to the Town from the present and late Collectors of Taxes, was read, and debate had thereon, whereupon

Voted, that, Mr. Edward Payne
 Melatiah Bourn Esq.
 Mr. Ezekiel Price
 Mr. Nicholas Boylstone
 Mr. John Amory

be a Committee to enquire of the Province County and Town Treasurers what Moneys are due to them from the present and late Collectors of Taxes for this Town, to Report as soon as may be —

Voted, that the Consideration of School Masters Salarvs, and all other Saliarys and Grants, be referred over to next May Meeting —

[6.] The Petition of a number of Inhabitants “ that a Master may be chosen for the North Grammar School ” was read, and debate had thereon, whereupon

Voted, that the Selectmen be a Committee on behalf of the Town to make choice of a Gentleman out of the Candidates that shall offer themselves, as they may most approve of as a Master for said School—

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. “ Whether the Town will take any Measures for the relief of M^r. Peleg Wiswell, late Master of the North Grammar School who has resigned on account of his Age and great Infermities ” was read and considered, whereupon,

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be and hereby is granted M^r. Peleg Wiswell, for his support the ensuing year—

Adjourned to Monday next Ten O’Clock A : M :

Monday March 16 10^o’Clock P : M : Met according to Adjournment—

Major James Cunningham was chosen a Fire-Ward for the Year ensuing—

The Town brought in their Votes for Five Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appear’d that

The Hon ^{ble} . Royal Tyler Esq.	Sworn
John Barrett Esq.	d ^o .
M ^r . Benjamin Dolbear	d ^o .
Melatih Bourn Esq.	Excused
M ^r . Henderson Inches	d ^o .

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, the Question [7.] Was put— viz^t. “ Whether the Town will adhere to that Clause in their Instructions given their Representatives in May last, Viz^t. “ And for the total abolishing of Slavery among us that you move for a Law to prohibit the Importation and purchasing of Slaves for the future ” which Question passed in the Affermative, Nem. Con. —

The Committee appointed on the Ninth Instant to enquire of the Province, County and Town Treasurers what Moneys are due to them from the present and late Collector of Taxes for this Town— Report

That having carefully examined the Accounts received from the several Treasurers there appears to be due from the Collectors of Taxes after deducting £2396 ,, 2 ,, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ for Abatements made them in the years 1763 — 1764 — 1765 — the following Sums— Viz^t.—

John Ruddock Esq. to the Town Treasurer for	
1763	£264 ,, 18 ,, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Balance of the Street Tax	115 ,, 19 ,, 3
	<hr/>
	£380 ,, 17 ,, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$

From which when paid is to be deducted his Premium being - - - £126 ,, 7 ,, 3—

M ^r . Samuel Adams to the Province Treasurer for 1763		£291	,,	17	,,	3
To ditto for - - - - - 1764		2009	,,	8	,,	8
		<hr/>				
		£2301	,,	5	,,	11
To the Town Treasurer 1764	£1633	,,	13	,,	4½	
Balance of the Street Tax	94	,,	8	,,	6	
	<hr/>					
				1728	,,	1
				<hr/>		
		£4029	,,	7	,,	9½
From which when paid is to be deducted his Premium for Collecting 1762 — 1763 — & 1764 — being	£382	,,	10	,,	1¼	
	<hr/>					
Jonathan Payson Esq. to the Province Treasurer for 1765	£740	,,	19	,,	8	
To Ditto - - - 1766	1034	,,	5	,,	10	
	<hr/>					
		£1775	,,	5	,,	6
To the County Treasurer 1765	£55	,,	15	,,	10	
To Ditto - - - 1766	123	,,	15	,,	10	
	<hr/>					
				179	,,	11
				<hr/>		
		£1954	,,	17	,,	2
[8.] Brought over -				£1954	,,	17
To the Town Treasurer 1764	£27	,,	—	,,	—	
To Ditto - - - 1765	1140	,,	17	,,	—	
To Ditto - - - 1766	1174	,,	14	,,	3	
	<hr/>					
				2342	,,	11
				<hr/>		
		£4297	,,	8	,,	5
From which when paid is to be deducted his Premiums for 1764 — 1765 — 1766 —						
M ^r . Sampson Salter to the Province Treasurer 1765	£898	,,	11	,,	3	
To Ditto - - - 1766	1186	,,	19	,,	3	
	<hr/>					
		£2085	,,	10	,,	6
To the County Treasurer 1766		200	,,	—	,,	—
To the Town Treasurer 1766		966	,,	12	,,	9
	<hr/>					
		£3253	,,	3	,,	3
From which when paid is to be deducted his Premiums for 1765 & 1766 —						
M ^r . Samuel Ruggles to the Province Treas ^r . 1765	£360	,,	5	,,	1	
To Ditto - - - 1766	1195	,,	12	,,	8	
	<hr/>					
		£1555	,,	17	,,	9

To the County Treasurer 1765	£18	8	10	
To Ditto - - - 1766	245	—	—	
				263
To the Town Treasurer 1766	-	-	-	1202
				11
				—
				£3021
				17
				7

From which when paid is to be deducted his Premiums for 1765 & 1766 —

Mr. Edward Hollyday to the Province Treasurer 1765	£281	1	8	
To Ditto - - - 1766	1165	12	7	
				£1446
				14
				3
To the County Treasurer 1766	-	-	-	241
To the Town Treasurer 1766	-	-	-	1222
				7
				2
				£2910
				4
				2

From which when paid is to be deducted his Premium for 1765 & 1766 —

[9.] These several Sums due from the Collectors amount to to £17891 ,, 19 ,, 2 from which may be deducted the Sum of £9958 ,, 14 ,, 1 for what remains unpaid of the Tax for 1766, and there will then remain in the following Collectors hands a balance of £7933 ,, 5 ,, 1 which by Law ought to have been paid to the several Treasurers long since — Viz^t. —

John Ruddock Esq - for the taxes in 1763 -	£380	17	11½
Mr. Samuel Adams - - Ditto - - 1764 -	4029	7	9½
Jonathan Payson Esq. - - Ditto - - 1765 -	1964	12	6
Mr. Sampson Salter - - Ditto - - 1765 -	898	11	3
Mr. Samuel Ruggles - - Ditto - - 1765 -	378	13	11
Mr. Edward Hollyday - - Ditto - - 1765 -	281	1	8

£7933 ,, 5 ,, 0¾

N 3. Mess^{rs}. Salter Ruggles and Hollyday have made - - considerable Payments to the Town Treasurer on Accounts of the Tax for 1766 —

Since the above Accounts were received there has been paid into the Town Treasurer —

By Edward Hollyday - - - -	£12	9	3
By Jonathan Payson Esq. - - - -	2	0	7

The above Report having been read and Considered it was Voted that the same be accepted —

It was then moved and seconded that the Bonds given by John Ruddock Esq. a late Collector of Taxes to Mr. David Jeffries Treasurer for the faithful discharge of his Duty &c. might be put in Suit and the Question being accordingly put - - - Passed in the Affirmative —

A Motion of the like nature with the above was made and seconded respecting the Bonds given by Mr. Samuel Adams a late

Collector of Taxes, and the Question being put— Whether said Bonds shall be put in Suit - - Passed in the Affirmative —

It was also moved and seconded, that the Bonds given by [10.] Jonathan Payson Esq. a late Collector of Taxes to M^r. David Jeffries Treasurer for the faithful discharge of his Duty &c. might be likewise put in Suit — Passed in the Affirmative —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Suits against the several Collectors be put off to July term —

It was also Voted that the Town Treasurer do not prosecute any of those Collectors Bonds untill the 20th. of May next ensuing, unless any of their Bondsmen should desire it —

Voted, that Foster Hutchinson Esq.

M^r. Edward Payne

M^r. Ezekiel Price

be a Committee to take into Consideration what Premium shall be allowed the Collectors of Taxes, and the terms upon which they shall be entitled to the same — to Report this Meeting —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, and upon sorting them it appear'd that

M^r. William Fairfield

M^r. John Kneeland

M^r. Benjamin Church

Belcher Noyes Esq.

M^r. William Torrey

M^r. Jonathan Brown

M^r. Daniel Pecker

were chosen Assessors for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. William Nichols

[11.]	Andrew Symms	sworn
	Clement Collins	Sworn
	Henry Aline	d ^o .
	Isaac Vergoose	d ^o .
	John Grenough	d ^o .
	Jacob Thayer	d ^o .
	Joseph Edmunds	d ^o .
	John Skillins	d ^o .
	John Sergeant	d ^o .
	Richard Walker	d ^o .
	John Champney	d ^o .
	Samuel Turner	d ^o .

were chose Surveyors of Boards and Shingles for the Year ensuing.

M^r. John Gray

was chosen Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Samuel Dyer - - - Sworn

John Dyer

Obediah Low d^o.

John Joy

William Crafts d^o.

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Ebenezer M^cIntosh

- Samuel Bangs
 William Andrews (all sworn)
 John Shepherd
 William Stevenson
 were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing —
 Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner
 Samuel Whitwell
 were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing —
 [12.] Mess^{rs}. Peter Cotta - - Sworn
 Manesseh Masters d^o.
 Joseph Dyer
 John Harskins
 David Spear
 Nathan Spear
 Jonathan Jenkins
 Robert Breck Jun^r.
 Job Wheelwright
 Joshua Pico
 Benjamin Salt - - d^o.
 Paul Baxter
 John Owen d^o.
 Thomas Knox d^o.
 Samuel White d^o.
 Edward Cowell d^o.
 Edward Potter
 Peter Ellis d^o.
 Timothy Pease d^o.
 Nathaniel Waterman d^o.
 Jacob Williams d^o.
 two more
 were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing.
 Mess^{rs}. David Simans
 Thomas Curtis
 were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing
 M^r. Edward Curtis - - - (Sworn)
 was chosen Hayward for the Year ensuing —
 The Selectmen
 were chose Surveyers of High Ways for the Year ensuing.
 [13.] Coll^o. Joseph Jackson
 William Phillips Esq.
 William Homes Esq.
 were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, and they are
 desired and impowered to give all needful Directions to the Keeper
 of the Granary respecting the Quantity of Grain to be sold, and
 Affixing the price thereof from Time to Time as occasion shall re-
 quire —
 Cap^t. Martin Gay
 M^r. John Skinner
 were chose Assay Masters for the Year ensuing —
 John Tuder Esq.
 M^r. John White
 were chose Surveyers of Wheat for the Year ensuing —

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P : M :

3 O'Clock P : M : Met according to Adjournment —

The Selectmen Reported on the Account of Mr. Benjamin Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, which Account as entered in his Books (and on file in the Town Clerks Office) was read; whereupon it was Voted, the same be accepted and that Mr. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 580 Bushels of Indian Meal, and 15 Bushels of Rye Meal amounting to £008 ,, 11 ,, 8, and also for the sum of £215 ,, 9 ,, 7 $\frac{4}{5}$ Cash now in his hands exclusive of y^e Sum of £32 ,, 13 ,, 4 for his Salary and Assistance as charged in his Account which is hereby allowed him —

Voted, that Mr. Thomas Gray
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

Mr. Moses Gill

[14.] Mr. John Boylstone
Jonathan Williams Esq.

be and they hereby are Appointed a Committee to Audit the Accompts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accompts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are enjoyn'd to inspect every particular Account of the Moneys Expended for the use of the Almshouse; they are also impowered when they shall Audit said Accompts to allow such of the Overseers as shall Advance Moneys for the Relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the Time so Advanced, till they shall have Audited said Accompts —

A Motion was made and seconded to reconsider the Vote of the Forenoon for putting John Ruddock Esq. Bond in Suit whereupon —

Voted, that Mr. Ruddocks Bond, be not put in Suit for the present, but referred for further Consideration untill the General Town Meeting in May next, when the Committee are desired to Report again thereon —

Voted that Faneuil Hall be Illuminated on Wednesday the 18th. of this Instant March in commemoration of the Repeal of the Stamp Act, on said 18th. Day of March 1766 and that the Selectmen be desired to make provision for drinking his Majestys Health &° —

Voted, that the Inhabitants be desired to give Order to their Servants not to enkindle Bonfires in the Streets &° as it is the determination of the Town that all Offenders of this sort shall be prosecuted —

The Committee Appointed in the Forenoon to Consider what Premium shall be allowed the Collectors of Taxes, and the Terms upon which they shall be intituled to the same — Reported, whereupon

[15.] Voted, that the Vote passed on Monday last relating the Premium to be Allowed the Collectors of Taxes for the present Year be reconsidered, and that the Sum of Nine Pence on the Pound be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the present Year, provided they pay into the several Treasuries the whole Sum committed to them to Collect on or before the second Monday in March 1769, and in case the

same Collectors shall pay in one half of the Sums of Money committed to them to Collect for the present Year by the 10th. Day of July 1768, that then the Sum of twelve Pence on the Pound be Allowed and paid to such of the Collectors as shall pay in that proportion of the said Tax. And in case the whole of the said Tax shall not be paid in by the said second Monday in March 1769. then and in that case only the Sum of Three Pence on the Pound be allowed and paid unto such Delinquent Collectors of the said Tax. Provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen for the faithful discharge of their Duty, and complying with this Vote. And that the Assessors be directed not to deliver the Books containing the Tax for the Year 1767 to the Collectors unless they have discharged & paid into the several Treasurers the Tax for the Year 1765 —

Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are Impowered and directed to set for the Abatements of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Thursday till the first Thursday in April inclusive, and no longer, saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November for the Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an Opportunity of applying on the above limited Time, by reason of their being out of the Province ; at which Time they are also allowed and impowered to abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent between the said last Thursday in April and the last Day of November.

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants for the paving that part of Leaveret Street leading from M^r. Salters House into Water [16.] Street, was read and considered, whereupon Voted that the Town be at One third the Expence of paving said Street, provided the whole Pavement is completed to the satisfaction of the Selectmen —

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t) Whether that part of Water Street running from Leaveret Street into Kilby Street shall be repaired and paved was read & considered, whereupon

Voted, that this Matter be left to the Gentlemen the Selectmen to do therein as they may think proper —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that

M^r. Sampson Salter
M^r. Edward Hollyday
M^r. Samuel Ruggles
Nathaniel Coffin Esq.

were chose into that Office —

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t) “ And in what manner the Town will acknowledge the Receipt of Coll^o Barres Picture ” was read whereupon

Voted that the Hon^{ble} James Otis Esq.

John Hancock Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
John Erving Esq.

be a Committee to take this Matter into Consideration and Reported at the Adjournment —

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t) " To know the Mind of the Inhabitants with respect to the late Hon^{ble} Thomas Hancock Esq. [17.] Donation for a Bedlam " was read — whereupon —

Voted, that The Hon^{ble} Royal Tyler Esq.

Foster Hutchinson Esq.

Nicholas Boylston Esq.

John Erving Esq.

John Barrett Esq.

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

be a Committee to take this Matter into Consideration and Report at the Adjournment —

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to M^r. Ebenezer Storer for his faithful Services as an Overseer of the Poor a number of Years past —

Adjourned to Monday the 23^d of this Inst. March 10. O'Clock A : M :

Met according to Adjournment 23^d March 10 O'Clock A : M :

The Committee relative to a Bedlam Reported and had leave to Report again at the Meeting in May next —

The Committee relative to Coll^o Barres Picture Reported and had the leave of the Town to Report again at the General Town Meeting in May next —

Mess^{rs}. Caleb Champney

Nathaniel Cobbet

John Wells - - - - - Sworn

Richard Bradford - - - - - d^o.

Joshua Davis - - - - - d^o.

James Bayley - - - - - d^o.

[18.]

William Warland

John Martyn - - - - - Sworn

Isaac Bird - - - - - d^o.

Andrew Boardman

John Crosby - - - - - d^o.

Benjamin Jepson - - - - - d^o.

were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to M^r. Joseph Gardner, and M^r. Jonathan Mason for their faithful services as Overseers of the Poor a number of Years Past —

The Town brought in their Votes for Four Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appered that —

John Leverett Esq.

John Gore Esq.

Jonathan Williams Esq.

Cap^t. Samuel Partridge

1 more

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the year ensuing.

The Petition of M^r. Abiah Holbrook Master of the Writing School in the Common " that he may be further Considered for his extraordinary services by an Allowance to the Person who Acts as Usher under him, also with respect to his Taxes " was read — whereupon —

Voted, that Mr. Samuel Adams
 Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq.
 Mr. Thomas Gray
 Benjamin Kent Esq.
 Melatiah Bourn Esq.

be a Committee to Consider the same and Report at the General Town Meeting in May next —

[19.] It was moved that the Vote passed by the Town the Ninth Instant respecting a Schoolmaster for the North Grammar School may be reconsidered, and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative —

Voted, that the choice of a Master for the North Grammar School be referred to May Meeting, and that the same be made an Article in the Warrant for calling said Meeting —

The Town brought in their Votes for one Overseer of the Poor and upon sorting them it appeared that

Thomas Tyler Esq.

was chosen an Overseer of the Poor for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Samuel Bernard

John Newell

were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing.

The Committee appointed to take into Consideration the Petition of Ephraim and Ebenezer Perry — Reported, That having considered the same and view'd the Land mentioned in said Petition, are of Opinion; that the Town Lease to said Ephraim and Ebenezer for the term of Ninety nine Years, a peice of Land Just without the Fortification Gates on the South East side of the Neck Three hundred Feet in the Front on said Neck from the North East side of the Towns Lands leased to Sutton Byles, and three hundred feet in the Rear, the Depth to run on a Parrallel Line from the Land Leased to said Byles to the Point of the Bastian of said Fortification — They the said Ephraim and Ebenezer to pay as Reut therefor One Pound Sterling p Annum — The Committee further Report that the Lessees be obliged to Erect a Dam or Wharff from the Land Leased to said Byles to the Point of said Bastian sufficient to keep out the Sea or Salt Water; and that the Lessees be obliged to keep that part of said Dam or Wharff which includes the Rear of their Land in good Repair during their Lease — Also that the [20.] Outside work of One Dwelling House two Story high, — also the Wharff or Dam aforesaid be built and finished within two Years from the date of the Lease — And that the Lessees be obliged to keep the front Wall before said Land in good repair. The Committee are also of Opinion that the Cost of the Timber which shall be used in Erecting the Wharff or Dam which extends from the Northeast Corner of said Leased Land to the Point of said Bastian be paid by the Town. And leave the whole Premisses in tenantable repair at the expiration of the Lease —

The above Report having been Considered — the Question was put Whether the same be accepted — Passed in the Affermative —

Voted that Thomas Daws Esq.

John Hill Esq.

M^r. Ezekiel Price
 M^r. Robert Pierpoint
 M^r. John Ballard

be a Committee to view the Lands belonging to the Town on each side of the Neck and if necessary cause a survey thereof to be taken and consider of the best method for the Town to take in regard to said Lands, and to Report to the Selectmen sometime before the next May Meeting, that so the same may be inserted in the Warrant for calling said Meeting.

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) "Whether the Town will extend M^r. Enoch Browns Lease of a small Peice of Land on Boston Neck, beyond the Time limited in a late Vote" was read, and after debate had thereon

Voted, that the further consideration thereof be referred to the General Town Meeting in May next —

On a Motion made and seconded — Voted, that the Selectmen be a Committee to request of M^r. John Lovel Master of the South Grammar School, that he would take under his tuition, those Scholars of the North Grammar School who may be sent to his School by their Parents, untill a Master is provided for said School —

[21.] The Petition of M^r. David Jeffries, "that he may be allowed for a peice of Land laid into the public Street, but omitted in the admeasurement and Plan of Lands becoming vacant by Fire 1760, was read, whereupon Voted that —

Thomas Daws Esq.
 Onesip^r. Tileston Esq.
 Cap^t. Benjamin Andrews

be a Committee to View said Lands and Report their Opinion of the value thereof next May Meeting —

That Article in the Warr^t. Viz^t. "To consider what is proper to be done with the Pavement near the Fortification" was read, whereupon

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to order the necessary Repairs on the part of the Town, so soon as the Proprietors of the Land abutting have fulfilled their Obligation respecting the same —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that

M^r. Robert Pierpoint
 M^r. Ephraim May
 M^r. William Blake

be a Committee to observe and prosecute such Persons as may take Stones from the Town Wall on the Neck. —

Six Petit Jurors were chose for April Court and their Names returned by one of the Constables —

Voted, that all Matters and Things which remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the General Town Meeting in May next, to be then considered of and acted upon —

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting, for dispatching the Business thereof —

[22.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders, and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 31st. Day of March 1767.

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting by a Hand Vote, and also sworn according to Law —

The Petition of a number of the Inhabitants praying that a good Master may be immediately appointed for the North Grammar School; and that for his encouragement he may have the same Salary as the Master of the South Grammar School” was read, and after debate had thereon

It was moved and seconded that the choice of a Master for the North Grammar School be referred over to the Selectmen, and that they be desired to make choice of a proper Gentleman to supply that vacancy, and the Question being accordingly put— Passed in the Affermative —

It was further Voted, that the Clause in the Petition which relates to fixing a Salary for the Master of the North Grammar School, be referred over to May Meeting, then to be Considered and acted upon —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. “ To Consider what may be the proper Measures for regulating Faneuil Hall Market ” was read and Considered whereupon

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to shut up such part of the Towns Land adjoining to Faneuil Hall Market as they shall Judge proper, and not suffer any Person to enter within the Rails for the Sale of any kind of Provisions unless they pay such an acknowledgement to the Town as the Selectmen may think reasonable — Also that it be recommended to the Inhabitants of the Town not to purchase any Provisions of such disorderly Persons as may presume to stand in Dock Square or the Streets round [23.] Faneuil Hall Market — and that the above Vote be printed and dispersd among the Inhabitants in hand bills —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for a Clerk of Faneuil Hall Market, when it appeared that

M^r Abijah Adams

was chosen Clerk of the Market for the Year ensuing —

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to take such Order as has been usual to procure Collections for the Sufferers in the late Fire from the several Congregations in this Town —

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to receive the several Sums that may be Collected for the Sufferers in the late Fire, and distribute the same together with such other Donations as may be made among the Sufferers in such Proportions as they may Judge proper —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted that the Selectmen be desired to give Orders that no Illegal Weights and Measures may be suffered within Faneuil Hall Market and its Limits; and also that they be desired to furnish the said Market with a suitable number of true Weights and Measures for the use of any

Inhabitants who may purchase Provisions in said Market, during the Market Hours; and that the Selectmen be desired to consider what further Regulations, may be necessary, and Report at the General Town Meeting in May next —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved

[24.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Fryday the 8th Day of May Anno Domini 1767.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. M^r. Andrew Eliot —

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read.

Sundry Laws - - - - - read.

Samuel Sewall Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at Boston upon Wednesday the 27th Day of May Current; and in order thereto to consider and ascertain the Number of Gentlemen to be Elected; accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the choice of Four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen, that no Vote, will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12 O'Clock.

The Votes being brought in the Number of the same were found to be 618. — and upon sorting them it appeared that the Four following Gentlemen were chose - - - - - Viz^t.

The Hon ^{ble} . James Otis Esq.	575
The Hon ^{ble} . Thomas Cushing Esq.	557
M ^r . Samuel Adams	574
John Hancock Esq.	618

The choice of Representatives being over and declared by the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw, and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant; according [25.] The Inhabitants withdrew and brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appeared that the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment —

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 8. 1767.

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their Annual Meeting the 6th. of May 1766. desiring the Selectmen to visit the several public Schools in the Town, and to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein as they should think proper, and to Report thereon —

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that service on Wednes-

day the 25th. Day of June last accompanied by the following Gentlemen Viz^t. —

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq.
 Thomas Flucker Esq.
 Harrison Gray Esq.
 The Representatives of the Town
 The Overseers of the Poor
 The Rev^d. Joseph Sewall. D. D.
 Charles Chauncy D. D.
 M^r. Samuel Mather
 M^r. Andrew Elliot
 M^r. Samuel Cooper
 M^r. Samuel Checkley
 M^r. Ebenezer Pemberton
 M^r. Mather Byles
 The Town Treasurer
 Jonathan Williams Esq.

A number of other Gentlemen

[26.] And found the South Grammar School had 145 Scholars ; the North Grammar School 34 Scholars ; the South Writing School 260 Scholars ; the North Writing School had 256 Scholars ; the Writing School in Queen Street 222 Scholars, all in very good order —

The Consideration of that Clause in the Petition of a Number of Inhabitants presented the Town in March last, relative to the fixing a Salary for the Master of the North Grammar School, being referred over to this Meeting, was accordingly taken up by the Town ; and the Question being put (Viz^t.) “ Whether said Master shall have the Sum of £120 ,, — allowed him as Salary for one Year, being the Same Sum which is allowed the Master of the South Grammar School ” Passed in the Negative —

Two Letters from Dennis Deberdt Esq. Agent for the Town on Cap^t. Malcombs Affair, were laid before the Town by the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. Chairman of the Committee for Instructing said Gentlemⁿ.

The Committee relative to Coll^o. Barres Picture made a Verbal Report — whereupon Voted that those Gentlemen. (Viz^t.)

James Otis Esq.
 John Hancock Esq.
 John Rowe Esq.
 Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
 John Erveing Jun^r. Esq.

be and they hereby are Appointed a Committee to write a Letter to the Hon^{ble}. Coll^o. Barr informing him of the receipt of his Picture, and that the same by the unanimous Order of the Town is placed in Faneuil Hall. And said Committee are empower'd and directed to engage some Person to write to his Correspondent in London to pay to M^r. Duncan Clark or the Painter, the Cost of drawing said Picture, and any other Expence that has attended the same, which Sum the Inhabitants hereby oblige themselves to repay and reimburse —

[27.] Voted, that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds, be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as

Master of the South Grammar School, for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Eighty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Samuel Holyoke for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Samuel Hunt for his Salary as Master of North Grammar School, for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Procter for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in Queen Street for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Abiah Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing in the Common for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^r. John Tileston for his Salary as Master of the North Writing School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

[28.] Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that a further Sum of Forty Pound be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Lovel as an encouragement for him to remain and exert himself in the service of the Town the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^r. James Carter, for his Salary as Usher of the North Writing School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds, be allowed and paid unto M^r. Abia Holbrook Master of the Writing School in the Common for providing an Assistant the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Thirteen Pounds, six Shillings, and eight Pence be allowed and paid unto Mess^{rs}. John & James Lovel, as a consideration for their trouble and services in the North Grammar School for about Six Weeks while destitute of a Master —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto M^r. David Jeffries for his services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office —

[29.] Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and hereby is directed and empowered to allow the several Schoolmasters Interest on the Sums due to them from the Dates of their Warrants to the Time of payment —

Voted, that the Sum of Five Thousand Five hundred Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town for relief of the Poor and defreying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is desired and empowered to borrow on Interest the Sum of One hundred thirty three Pounds six Shillings and eight Pence for the use of the Overseers of the Poor to purchase Grain &c. for the Almshouse —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants “for paving the High Way leading from Milk Street into Battery March,” was read and considered whereupon,

Voted, that the Selectmen be a Committee to take the same into Consideration, and Report at the next Meeting —

Mess^{rs}. Cockran and Campbells Petition “That the Town would relieve them with respect to a loss they have sustained by supplying the Poor of the Town on the Order of M^r. Benjamin Hammett late an Overseer” was read, and after debate had thereon a Motion was made that the same be referred to a Committee, and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Negative — It was then moved that said Petition be dismissed, and the Vote being put — Passed in the affirmative —

The Petition of the Gentlemen who have been chose Collectors of Taxes “that the Vote passed at the March Meeting respecting the Premium to be allowed them may be reconsidered” was read [30.] And after debate had thereon, Voted that

Benjamin Kent Esq.
M^r. Ezekiel Price
John Hill Esq.
M^r. Edward Payne
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

be a Committee to take this Matter into Consideration and Report as soon as may be —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants “that the same Sum may be allowed for the widening the Street near the Salutation Tavern, as was granted for the widening Ann Street” was read & consider'd whereupon

Voted, that the Sum of Forty Pounds be and hereby is granted said Petitioners, provided a Brick Wall be built on a Line with M^r. Bradford and M^r. Kents Houses, and the Petitioners convey to the Town the several Peices of Land already laid unto the Street —

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to act upon the List of Jurors —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “ To Consider whether any Measures shall be taken for the better sweeping the Chimnies & prevention of Fires ” being read Voted that

John Ruddock Esq.

Thomas Daws Esq.

M^r. John Ballard

Benjamin Kent Esq.

Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq.

be a Committee to take this Matter into Consideration and Report at the next Meeting —

[31.] That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “ Whether the Town will call for the Moneys lent the Manufactory Company the 23^d. March 1753 ” was read and Considered, whereupon Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed to call for said Moneys

The Committee relative to the Towns Lands on Boston Neck not having finished their business were desired to make Report at the Town Meeting speedily to be called to receive the same, as also the Report of the Committee on the Petition of the Collectors of Taxes —

The Committee on the Petition of M^r. David Jeffries “ that he may be allowed for a peice of Land into the public Street, but omitted in the Admeasurement and Plan of Land becoming vacant by Fire 1760. ” Reported that they had viewed the above said Peice of Land, which they take to be worth Ten Pounds, and said Report having been considered —

Voted, that the sum of Ten Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto M^r. David Jeffries as a consideration for the above said Piece of Land laid into the public Street —

Voted, that it appears to the Town that John Hancock Esq. the Residuary Legatee of the late Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hancock Esq. has always publicly manifested his readiness to pay the Legacy left to the Town by his late worthy Uncle — said John Hancock Esq. having made several Applications to the Inhabitants in public Town Meeting that they would accept of said Donation —

Voted that all Matters and Things that remain unfinished at this Meeting, be and hereby is referred over to the Town Meeting speedily to be called, to be then considered and acted upon —

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town [32.] Be and hereby are given to the Honourable James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 13th. Day of July. Anno Domini 1767 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read —

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving

Bills of Credit of the other Governments as required by an Act of this Province.

The Committee relative to the Towns Lands on Boston Neck, Reported in the form of a Vote — Viz^t. —

Whereas the Lands on Boston Neck lying on both sides of the Great Road leading to Roxbury together with some Lands lying on both sides Orange Street, Just within the Fortification belonging to this Town; which Lands if laid out in proper and convenient Allotments [33.] Might be sold much for the Interest and advantage of the Town.

And whereas a Plan of the same Lands, is now lodged in the Town Clerks Office whercon is marked and laid out proper and convenient Lotts of the said Lands for Sale; therefore Voted that — or the major part of them, be a Committee to make Sale of all or any of the said Lotts, as also the said Lands Just within the Fortification, for the most the same will fetch; and that the said Committee or the major part of them, be and hereby are authoris'd and impowered to make execute and deliver, in the Name and on the behalf of the Town, good and sufficient Deed or Deeds of bargain and sale, of any Lott or Lotts part or parcel of said Land, to the Purchaser or Purchasers. —

THOMAS DAWES, p order

The above Report having been read and considered — the Question was put “ Whether the same be accepted — Passed in the Negative —

The Committee appointed to take into Consideration the Petition of Sampson Salter and others chose to Collect the public Taxes for the Year 1767. do Report — That they have met the Petitioners several Times and heard them fully relating to the Prayer of their said Petition, and having considered of the same, give it as our Opinion, that the Premium to be allowed for Collecting said Taxes be in the following manner — Viz^t. — Twelve Pence on the Pound to each of the Collectors upon all such Sums, as they shall have actually paid into the Province County and Town Treasurers on or before the tenth Day of July 1768 — Eight Pence on the Pound on all such other Sums, as they shall have so paid in to said Treasurers on or before the twentieth Day of December 1768. and Four Pence on the Pound upon the remainder of the Sums they shall be obliged to Collect, provided such remainder shall be fully paid in on or before the second Monday of March Anno Domini 1769, this Premium as above expressed appears to be Just and equitable, and an ample Allowance to the Collectors to encourage them to discharge their Duty with diligence and fidelity, and humbly submit it to the Consideration of the Town — The Committee would beg leave Just to mention, that as every Inhabitant is sensible the Town for [34.] Many Years past have laboured under great Difficulties by reason of the Taxes not being paid into the respective Treasuries, and especially the Town Treasury, and that the Town Tax has thereby greatly increased, and that this has been principally occasioned by the neglect of the Collectors, or some of them, and the backwardness of the Inhabitants to pay owing to the great lenity of the Collectors notwith-

standing the generous Premium that has always been allowed for their Services: The Committee are of Opinion these difficultys may be in a great Measure prevented, if the Town would come into the following Resolutions. Viz^t. —

That the Assessors be directed to take the List of the Names of all Persons lyable to be taxed some time in the Month of June Annually, so as to compleat the same before the expiration of that Month; And that said Assessors shall begin to make the Annual Tax in seven Days at farthest after they have received the Warrants from the Province Treasurer, for the Province Tax, and from the Court of Sessions for the County Tax and the Town Vote for the Town Tax, and that they compleat the said Tax & prepare the Tax Books, so as they may be delivered to the Collectors annually on or before the first Day of October, that Time being much better than it formerly used to be, and the Committee are of Opinion, that this delay in the Assessors has not only been expensive to the Town, but the Cause of many of the Difficulties the Town has met with —

The Committee also think that it would not only be a relief to the present and preceeding Collectors, but of Great benefit to the Town, if they were directed to prefer a List of the Names of all Persons that have not paid their Taxes for any Years preceeding the Year 1766, and that such Lists be distinctly read over, in a full Town Meeting to be called for that purpose, at such Time as the Town shall Judge proper, and that the Collectors for the Year 1766 give in a like List of the Names of the Persons that shall not have paid their Taxes for that Year to be distinctly read over in Town Meeting in the Month of March 1769. —

BENJAMIN KENT

p order

[35.] The Report on the other side having been read and debate had thereon—the Question was put—Whether the Town will accept the same — Passed in the Affermative —

M^r. Nathaniel Coffin chosen Collector of Taxes for the ensuing Year having declined that Service was accordingly excused by the Town —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes, for a Collector of Taxes in the room of Nathaniel Coffin Esq. who has declined serving & upon sorting them it appeared that

Jonathan Payson Esq.

was chosen a Collector of Taxes for the ensuing Year —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted that the Selectmen be desired to do what is necessary relative to the repairing or enlarging the Gun House in the Common for the reception of the Artillery lately given by the Province for the use of the Boston Regiment.

The Committee relative to sweeping Chimnies &c. not having compleated their Scheem, were disired to Report the same at the next Town Meeting —

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq. laid before the Town, the following Letter received from M^r. Secretary Conway— Viz^t. —

London March 16. 1767.

Sir —

I am ashamed to have so long deferred sending my Picture, which the Assembly of Boston have done me the Honor to request; but as this delay has been chiefly owing to the dilatoriness of the Painter, who has been extremely slow in finishing it I hope it will not be imputed to any neglect on my part, or to any want of the Just sense I ought ever to retain of the great distinction they were pleased to favor [36.] Me with on that occasion —

I am with great regard

Sir

Your Obliged & Most Obed^t.

humble Servant

H. S. CONWAY.

The above Letter having been read to the Inhabitants by the Town Clerk — Voted, that the same be handed to the Committee relative to Coll^o. Barres Picture who are hereby desired to write a Letter to the Hon^{ble}. H. S: Conway, informing him of the reciet of his Picture, and that the same by the unanimous order of the Town is placed in Faneuil Hall — And said Committee are empowered and directed to engage some Person to write to his Correspondent in London to pay the cost of drawing said Picture, and any other expence that has attended the same, which Sum the Inhabitants hereby oblige themselves to repay and reimburse —

The Committee appointed to examine the Accompts of M^r. David Jeffries Town Treasurer have attended that Service, & find the same right cast and well vouched in which he charges himself with sundry Fines, Rents, and other Incomes of the Town, as also with the Tax of £5000 — All which amount to the Sum of £11577 ,, 16 ,, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ including the balance of old Account —

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abate-ments made the Collectors amounting to £661 ,, 3 ,, 4 by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3202 ,, 10,, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ of which he has paid £2284 ,, 1 ,, 7, and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor, which contain the Charge of the Almshouse amounting to £3057 ,, 18 ,, 1 of which he has paid £1433 ,, 7 ,, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ also by sundry Sums paid for Interest amounting to £84 ,, 14 ,, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ the whole amounting to £7009 ,, 4 ,, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ —

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very [37.] Particular manner, and have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers of the Poor for the amount of their Drafts and every other branch of public Charge, amount in all as above to £7009 ,, 4 ,, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$, as by Account of Town Treasury in the Town Treasurers Books, balance whereof being £4568 ,, 12 ,, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ is carried to the Credit of a new Account —

Which Report and Account being read, Voted that the same be and hereby is accepted —

In a Motion made and seconded Voted, that there be a Town Meeting called on the 24th Instant, provided M^r. Adams produces a List to the Selectmen of the Debts due to him as Collector of Taxes from the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston and from whom by

the 20 Inst. that the Town may act as they Judge proper with respect to the Suit commenced against him as Collector —

Voted that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Fanenil Hall on Fryday the 9th Day of October A. D. 1767 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read.

[38.] The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments as required by an Act of this Province.

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “Whether the Town will make any alteration in a late Vote respecting the Collectors of Taxes, they having declined Serving upon the terms therein stated; or if the Town should think fit to adhere to said Vote, then to choose four new Collectors for the present Year” was read, and after debate had thereon — the Question was put — Whether the town will make any alteration in their late Vote respecting Collectors of Taxes — Passed in the Negative — It was then moved, and Voted that the choice of Collectors be referred over to 3 O’Clock P: M:

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “Whether the Town will be at the Charge of a new Engine to supply the place of Engine No. 3 kept in Bennet Street, which upon a thorough inspection is found to be unfit for service” was read and Considered whereupon —

Voted, that it be left to the Gentlemen Selectmen either to repair said Engine or to procure a new one in its room, as they may Judge most for the Interest of the Town —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “Whether any Measures shall be taken to repair or render more respectable the entrance into this Town near the Fortification” was read — And the Question being put — “Whether such Measures shall be taken” — Passed in the Affermative — It was further Voted that

M^r. Edward Payne
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Thomas Daws Esq.
Melatiah Bourn Esq.
Jonathan Williams Esq.
M^r. John Boyleston
Coll^o. John Hill

[39.]

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to carry said Measure into execution —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “Whether the Town will impower the Selectmen to make such other Building in addition to

the Gun House as is represented to be necessary for the use of the Train of Artillery" was read, whercupon

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to act in this Matter as they may think proper and expedient —

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M:

Met according to Adjournment.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, the Question was put (Viz'.) "Whether the Vote passed in the Morning respecting Collectors of Taxes shall now be reconsidered" — Passed in the Affermative —

It was further Voted, that the Vote passed the 13th. of July last relative to the Collectors of Taxes, by one Clause of which they are allowed a Premium of twelve Pence on the Pound upon all such Sums as they shall have actually paid into the Province County and Town Treasurers on or before the tenth Day of July 1768 — be so far reconsidered as that said Collectors be and they hereby are allowed the like Sum of Twelve Pence on the Pound as Premium on all such Sums of Money as shall be paid into the several Treasurers as aforesaid on or before the tenth Day of August 1768 any thing in a former Vote notwithstanding —

Three of the Gentlemen chose Collectors of Taxes for the present [40.] Year Viz'. — Mess^{rs}. Sampson Salter, Edward Hollyday, & Samuel Ruggles consenting to serve in said Office, upon the alteration now made in the Vote passed the 13th. Day of July last respecting said Collectors — The Inhabitants were desired to withdraw, and bring in their Votes for one Collector in the room of Jonathan Payson Esq. who declines serving — their Votes being accordingly brought in upon sorting them it appeared that

M^r. Abraham Savage

was chosen a Collector of Taxes for the present Year.

The Petition of M^{rs}. Mary Pratt Widow "that an abatement may be made her on the Rent of Deer Island for Reasons therein given" was read, and after debate had thereon —

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to make enquiry into the Circumstances of this Matter, and Report the same at the next Town Meeting —

Voted that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[41.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Fanenil Hall on Wednesday the 28th. Day of October A. D. 1767.

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, as required by an Act of this Province

An Address to the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston now Assembled and subscribed *Philo Patria* recommending Oeconomy and Manufactures which was handed in to the Town this Morning, was by their order read to them by the Town Clerk —

The Town took into consideration the Petition of a Number of Inhabitants “that some effectual Measures might be agreed upon to promote Industry, Oeconomy, and Manufactures, thereby to prevent the unnecessary Importation of European Commodities which threaten the Country with Poverty and Ruin” whereupon in a very large and full Meeting, the following Votes and Resolutions were passed unanimously.

Whereas the excessive use of Forreign Superfluities is the chief Cause of the present distressed state of this Town, as it is thereby drained of its Money, which Misfortune is like to be increased by means of the late additional burthens and impositions on the Trade of this Province which threaten the Country with poverty and ruin — therefore Voted, that this Town will take all prudent and legal Measures to encourage the produce and Manufactures of this Province, and to lesson the use of Superfluities & particularly the following enumerated Articles Imported from abroad Viz'. [42.] Loaf Sugar — Cordage — Anchors — Coaches — Chaises & Carriages of all sorts — Horse Furniture — Men & Womens Hatts — Men & Womens Apparel ready made — Household Furniture — Gloves — Men & Womens Shoes — Sole Leather — Sheathing and Deck Nails — Gold & Silver Thread — Lace of all Sorts — Gold and Silver Buttons — Wrought Plate of all sorts — Diamond Stone and Paste Ware — Snuff — Mustard — Clocks & Watches — Silver Smiths & Jewellers Ware — Broad Cloths that cost above ten shillings p Year — Muffs, Furrs & Tippetts — and all sorts of Millinary Ward — Starch — Women & Children's Stays — Fire Engines — China Ware — Silk and Cotton Velvets — Gauze — Pewterers hollow Ware — Linseed Oyle — Glue — Lawns — Cambrick — Silk of all kinds for Garments — Malt Liquors, & Cheese. — And that a Subscription for this end be and hereby is recommended to the several Inhabitants and Householders of the Town, and that

John Rowe Esq.

Mr. William Greenleaff

Melatih Bourn Esq.

Mr. Samuel Austin

Mr. Edward Payne

Mr. Edmund Quincy Tertius

John Ruddock Esq.

Jonathan Williams Esq.

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

Mr. Henderson Inches

Mr. Solomon Davis

Joshua Winslow Esq.

Thomas Cushing Esq.

be a Committee to prepare a form for Subscription to Report the

same as soon as possible, and also to procure Subscriptions to the same —

And whereas it is the Opinion of this Town that diverse new Manufactures may be set up in America to its great advantage, & some others carried to a greater extent, particularly those of Glass & Paper, therefore

[43.] Voted, that this Town will by all prudent ways & means encourage the use and consumption of Glass and Paper made in any of the British American Colonies and more especially in this Province

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment.

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) "To Choose a Committee to examine the Accompts of the Managers of Faneuil Hall Lotteries," was read, whereupon Voted, that

John Hill Esq.
Foster Hutchinson Esq.
Belcher Noyes Esq.
M^r. Ezekiel Price

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to examine the Accompts of the Managers of Faneuil Hall Lotteries, as also the Accompts of such other Lotteries as may hereafter be drawn by said Managers —

The Petition of Nathaniel Heath "that the Selectmen may have orders to draw for the Forty Pounds due to him for taking down part and repairing the remainder of the Widow Crosby's House near the Salutation Tavern, in order to widen the Street there, notwithstanding the Condition on which the Town granted the said Sum was not wholly complied with" being read and considered —

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are directed to give the said Heath an order on the Town Treasurer for the Sum of Forty Pounds, as pay for the Services set forth in his Petition, any former Vote, to the contrary notwithstanding. —

The Clause in the Warrant (Viz^t.) "To Consider of some Measures [44.] For employing the Poor of the Town of Boston, by reviving the Linen Manufacture, and in such other Ways as shall be thought most beneficial," was read, whereupon

Voted, that, John Barrett Esq.
M^r. Edward Payne
Middlecot Cook Esq.
M^r. Henderson Inches
Melatiah Bourn Esq.
Jonathan Williams Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee for the purpose aforesaid, to Report as soon as may be —

That Clause in the Warrant Viz^t. — "That the mind and Resolution of the Town may be taken with respect to the expediency of a humble request to his Excellency the Governor, that he will Convene the Geueal Assembly as soon as may be" was read and considered — whereupon

Voted. unanimously, that the Representatives of the Town having already made humble application to his Excellency the Governor for the purpose above mentioned, the Town do approve of their Conduct therein; hereby declaring their sense of the importance of the Measure, and expressing their hopes that his Excellency will be pleased to further it, by Convening the General Assembly as soon as conveniently may be. —

The Committee appointed in the Fore-Noon to prepare a form for Subscriptions, Report as follows —

Whereas this Province labours under a heavy debt incurred in the course of the late Warr, and the Inhabitants by this means, must be for some time subject to very burthensome Taxes; And as our [45.] Trade has for several Years been on the decline, and is now particularly under great Embarrassments, and burthen'd with heavy Impositions, our Medium very scarce, and the balance of Trade greatly against this Country —

We therefore the Subscribers being sensible that it is absolutely necessary, in order to extricate us out of these embarrassed & distressed Circumstances to promote Industry, Oeconomy, & Manufactures among ourselves, and by this Means prevent the unnecessary Importation of European Commodities, the excessive use of which threatens the Country with Poverty and Ruin, Do Promise & Engage to and with each other, that we will encourage the use and consumption of all Articles Manufactured in any of the British American Colonies, & more especially in this Province; and that we will not from & after the 31st. — of December next ensuing, purchase any of the following Articles, imported from abroad —

Loaf Sugar
 Cordage
 Anchors
 Coaches Chaises & Carriages of all sorts
 Horse Furniture
 Mens & Womens Hatts
 Men & Womens Apparel ready made
 Household Furniture
 Gloves
 Men & Womens Shoes
 Sole Leather
 Sheathing & Deck Nails
 Gold & Silver & Thread Lace of all sorts
 Gold & Silver Buttons
 Wrought Plate of all sorts
 Diamond Stone & Paste Ware
 Snuff
 Mustard
 Clocks and Watches
 Silver Smiths & Jewellers Ware
 Broad Cloths that Cost about 10/ p Yard
 Muffs: Furrs & Tippetts
 All sorts of Millinary Ware
 Starch

[46.]

Women and Childrens Stays
 Fire Engines
 China Ware
 Silk and Cotton Velvets
 Gauze
 Pewterers hollow Ware
 Silk & Cotton Velvets
 Linseed Oyle
 Glue
 Lawns
 Cambricks
 Silks of all kinds for Garments
 Malt Liquors
 Cheese

And we further Agree strictly to adhere to the late regulations respecting Funerals, and will not use any Gloves but what are Manufactured here. nor procure any new Garments upon such an Occasion but what shall be absolutely necessary —

JOHN ROWE p order —

The above Report having been considered, the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted, whereupon

Voted unanimously that said Report be & hereby is accepted, and that said Committee be desired to use their best endeavors to get the Subscription Papers filled up as soon as may be — also

Voted, unanimously that the forgoing Vote and Form of a Subscription, relative to the Enumerated Articles &c. be immediately [47.] Published, and that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be directed to distribute a proper Number of them among the Freeholders of this Town, and to forward a Copy of the same to the Selectmen of every Town in the Province, and also to the principal City or Town Officers of the Chief Towns in the several Colonies on the Continent, as they may think proper. —

That Clause in the Warrant respecting “ giving proper Instructions to the Representatives of the Town for their Conduct at this very critical conjunction of our public Affairs ” was read, whereupon

Voted, that the consideration of this Matter be referred over to the Adjournment of this Meeting —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Town will take all proper Measures by keeping in their Children & Servants and other ways to prevent the disturbances which have sometimes happened on or about the Fifth Day of November —

At this Meeting several Samples of Starch called Poland Starch, and of the common sort of Starch; Powder of best sorts for Barbers, Glue, and Snuff like Kippens so called, all manufactured in this Town, were shewn to the Inhabitants and much approved of

M^r. John Baker who manufactures the Poland Starch so called, being present declared his readiness to Contract with the Inhabitants for two Thousand Barrels at the prime cost of that Article in London —

M^r. Gelaspy the Manufacturer of Stock Snuff so called, offered

to furnish the Inhabitants with what may be wanted at the first Cost of that Article in North Britian —

The Town were also informed that our Paper Manufacturers [48.] Had given assurance, that in case they can be supplied with the Materials for their use, usually burnt or thrown away in our great Towns, they could supply the Province with whatever sorts and quantity of Paper, they have occasion for, and have some left for the other Colonies —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Fryday the 20th. of November next, 10 O'Clock A : M :

Fryday the 20th. of November. 10. O'Clock A : M : Town Met according to Adjournment —

The Committee appointed on the 20th of last Month “to Consider of some Measures for employing the Poor of the Town of Boston, by reviving the Linnen Manufacture, and in such other ways as shall be thought most beneficial” having desired a further Time — Voted, that said Committee be desired to make Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting —

The Committee appointed on the 20th Ultimo relative to the Enumerated Articles, Reported, and also handed in to the Town the Subscription Rolls, whereupon

Voted, that said Rolls be left with the Town Clerk for such of the Inhabitants to Subscribe the same as may not as yet have done it —

The Committee appointed to examine the Accounts of the Managers of Faneuil Hall Lotteries — Reported that they had examined the several Accompts of Lotteries N^o. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. & 9, and found the same to be right cast, which Report was accepted by the Town —

[49.] The Town being informed sundry scandalous and threatenng Papers have been posted up in various parts of the Town, by some evil minded Person or Persons, Enemies to its peace, tending to excite Tumults & Disorders

Voted, unanimously that the Inhabitants of this Town will be ready on all Occasions to assist the Selectmen and Majestrates in the suppression of all Disorders that may arise and that they will endeavor to preserve peace and harmony among the Inhabitants —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, that Article in the Warrant relative to the giving proper Instructions to the Representatives of the Town for their Conduct at this very critical Conjunction of our public Affairs, the Consideration whereof was referred to this Meeting was now taken up and the Question being put — “Whether the Town will Instruct their Representatives — Passed in the Affermative almost unanimously — It was further Voted that

Richard Dana Esq.
M^r. Henderson Inches
John Rowe Esq.
M^r. Edward Payne
M^r. Edmund Quincy tertius

M^r. Ezekiel Price
D^r. Benjamin Church

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to prepare Instructions accordingly, and they are desired to Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting —

Voted, that this Meeting be and hereby is Adjourned to Tuesday the 22^d. of December next —

Tuesday the 22^d. Day of December 3. O'Clock P : M : Town met according to Adjournment

[50.] A Petition of M^r. John Trumbles of Charlestown relative to the setting up the Pipe Manufacture in this Town was read, but the same not being an Article in the Warrant was not acted upon —

The Committee appointed the 28 of October last “ to consider of some Measures for employing the Poor of the Town of Boston by reviving the Linnen Manufacture, and in such other ways as shall be thought most beneficial ” Reported

That they have had many Meetings about the Matters referred to them for their Consideration, have made a full enquiry into the steps taken by the late Society for carrying on the Linnen Manufacture, and the method they pursued for establishing the same, Examined all their Books and Accompts, and procured from several of the Gentlemen concerned all the information relative to their proceedings in that Business they were able to give, what encouragement was given for carrying it on, and the many difficulties that attended it, and conversed with some Persons best acquainted with the several branches of this Business, and also compared the Circumstances of those Times with the present, and after the most mature Consideration of the whole The Committee are of Opinion, that this Province has all natural Advantages for carrying on the Linnen Manufacture, and that a sufficient quantity of Flax may be raised for that purpose, if the Government would give encouragement. That the carrying on this Business in a Factory will be attended with greater Expence than in private Families (as by experience has been found in Scotland & Ireland as well as among ourselves) where the Spinning and Weaving are done when they have no other Employ, whereas in a Factory they must be wholly supported by the Manufacture therefore cannot afford their work so cheap — That the profits arising from this Manufacture is not sufficient to induce any Persons to undertake it without some assistance [51.] From the public; that in order to carry on and establish this Business in a Factory in Boston, the House, Looms, Wheels & other Utensils necessary for bleaching and Callending must be provided at the public charge, and likewise a Stock of Three thousand Pounds to be applied for purchasing Flax and Yarn, paying the Weavers Spinners Bleaching &c. That this Stock must be lent to suitable Persons who are acquainted in all the Branches of this Manufacture, and will undertake to carry on the same on their own Account if such Persons can be found, who could give security for the said Stock, the Committee are of Opinion the Linnen Manufacture may be established in this Town. The Committee have the pleasure to

acquaint the Town, that from the surest advices they have obtained from many parts of this Province, the Woolen & Linnen Manufactures are carried on to so great a degree, as that a very great part of the Inhabitants in most Towns supply themselves with their own Cloathing — The Committee would further Report that they are informed by good Judges living in this Town, that Duck or Sail Cloth has been made in this Province of a superior quality to any commonly imported from Russia, and they are of Opinion that the making this Article will be more advantageous than Linnen, as it is probable suitable Persons may be found to carry on this Manufacture with proper Encouragement from the public, and a Bounty from the Governm^t This Manufacture is not liable to so many accidents as the Linnen, nor so great an Expence to establish it, the Poor of the Town may be employed to spin the Yarn for this, as well as the other, and the pounding & beating of the Hemp may be done by those in the Workhouse At present the Comm^{ee}. are not able to Inform the Town so fully as to the making of Duck as they hope they soon shall, being in dayly expectations of receiving answers to some Letters they have wrote relative to this head. and when they come to hand, the Committee doubt not but they shall be able to lay a Plan that may be equally beneficial to the Town & Province as the Linnen Manufacture would, if Persons could be found to undertake that, on the aforementioned Terms —

[52.] The Question being put — Whether the Report on the other side shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative — It was also Voted, that the said Committee be desired to set again for a further Consideration of what may be expedient for the Town to do relative to the Linnen Manufacture &^c and to Report as soon as may be —

The Committee appointed to prepare Instructions for the Representatives of the Town, Reported the following Draft —

Gentlemen

We your Constituents the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston being legally Assembled in Faneuil Hall, and taking into mature Consideration the distressed Circumstances of this Town, by means of the amazing growth of Luxury, and the Embarrassments of our Trade; & having also the strongest apprehensions that our invaluable Rights & Liberties as Men and British Subjects, are greatly affected by a late Act of the British Parliament imposing Duties on sundry Commodities to be levied & paid in the Colonies, have thought it expedient to give you our united sentiments on those interesting subjects; that you may from thence take encouragement vigorously to pursue such Measures as may be best calculated to secure our safety & welfare

It is the part of every wise Community at all times to encourage Industry and Oeconomy among themselves. How great is the necessity when pressed with insupportable Debts and Taxes which is the present unhappy state of this Town and Province? The late Just and necessary war, in which our Sovereign and the Nation have been engaged, being principally seated in North America rendred it the incumbent Duty of his Majestys faithful Subjects of these

Colonies, to exert the utmost of their strength and abilities in defence of his Dominions in this part of the World, and reducing his Enemies to terms of peace. This Province has [53.] Exhibited many repeated instances of their readiness to afford this aid to his Majesty which will be standing Monuments of their zeal for his Majesties service & their affection to the Mother State. It is needless to recur to former Instances even in the Infancy of this Province; the last War affords incontestable proofs; when by their united exertions, they incurred a Debt which is now an almost insupportable burden, and will so remain for Years to come. It is with concern that we are obliged to say, that under all this difficulty our private Debts to the British Merchants have been increasing; and our importations even of Superfluities as well as other Articles have been so much beyond the bounds of prudence, that our utmost efforts it is to be feared, will not save us from impending ruin. At the Same Time our Trade by which alone we are enabled to balance our Accompts with Great Britain is in almost every branch of it burthened with Duties and Restrictions, whereby it is rendered unprofitable to us; and is indeed in danger of being totally obstructed & ruined. In such a deplorable situation we warmly recommend to you Gentlemen to exert your selves in promoting every prudent Measure which may be proposed to put a stop to that profusion of Luxury, so threatening to the Country; to encourage a spirit of Industry and frugality among the People, and to establish Manufactures in the Province. We conceive that diverse Manufactures may be set up to great advantage, particularly those of Iron, Glass, Paper, Linnen &c. and therefore we think it highly necessary that they should be encouraged by suitable Bounties. Hemp and Flax are the natural produce of our Lands, and many new discoveries may be made of the Productions of the Country, which we have Just reason to expect you will attend to, as they will be the necessary Means of lessening our Forreign Imports, enabling us to discharge the Debts we have already Contracted abroad, & freeing us from the Obligation of contracting at least so largely for Time to come. We cannot conclude this head without observing to you, that the excessive use & consumption of spirituous Liquors requires your particular care to discountenance; as it is [54.] Destructive to the Morals as well as the Health and substance of the People; rendering them incapable of labor, and tending to erace from the Mind, the sentiments of Virtue, and a disposition to Industry.

As we have nothing more at heart than to maintain a lasting and perpetual friendship & union with the People of Great Britain who are our Fellow Subjects, we rely upon it that you will at all Times readily Join in any Measures tending to cultivate and establish it. Using your best endeavors to circumvent & frustrate the designs of those who would create Jealousies and foment Divisions between us. At the same Time it is your incumbent Duty carefully to inspect such Acts of Parliament as are or shall be passed to be binding on the Colonies; the prudence and even necessity of which will appear when it is considered that we are not and cannot be Represented in the Parliament which passeth such Laws; and consequently the only step that can be taken by those

who alone legally Represent us, is to point out such inconveniences, as by reason of our great distance from the Supreme Legislative of the Nation may and in all probability will sometimes arise from such Laws, in order that they may be remedied. And we upon this Occasion strictly enjoin upon you to use your influence that the nature and tendency of the late Act of Parliament imposing Dutys upon Paper, Glass &c. may be the Subject of enquiry in the House of Representatives. The design of this Act we perceive is to raise a Revenue out of the Colonies for the support of his Majestys Government, and to defend and secure his Majestys Territories. As this Revenue is to be raised out of our property, it is immaterial to us by what mode the Taxes are to be levied, or by what Name they are called. It is without controversy the natural right of every Man, and the constitutional Right of every British Subject solely to dispose of his own property either by himself in Person, or by his Representatives of his own free Election. If therefore the People of [55.] This Province are by nature and by the Royal Charter entitled to all the Rights of natural born Subjects, as without doubt they are, it is certain that all Property taken from them, by any manner or way without their consent must be an infringement of their natural and Constitutional Rights, and it is a point of the utmost consequence to us; For what Liberty could any Man be supposed to have, if another have a right to demand of him any part of his earnings, and by consequence the whole if he pleases? Besides the appropriation of the Moneys to be raised by this Act we humbly apprehend it to be Just matter of grievance to us, in as much as we are thereby deprived of that honor which is the pride of British Subjects of testifying our alacrity in supporting his Majesties Officers in the several Departments of Government, as well as of the privilege of taking into Consideration our own ability and the merit of their Services. Moreover the Act in its operation will further discourage our Trade, already sinking under its pressures & difficulties. And it is worth your particular notice that it has ever been the policy of Great Britain to lay the Colonies under the necessity of purchasing her own Manufactures to the exclusion of all others, which obliges us to purchase such Articles as we have need of at an advanced price: and this alone we apprehend would be sufficient to exempt us from any additional Charges or Duties upon them here, even it were not inconsistent with our natural and constitutional Rights; especially when it is considered, that by our consumption of their Manufactures, the price of them is greatly advanced, the Manufactures increased in number and wealth and enabled to pay a larger proportion towards the public and National Charges, and the value of their Lands is also greatly enhanced —

We therefore upon the whole Instruct you to endeavor that in the most humble dutiful and loyal terms such representations may be made to our most gracious King, of our Constitutional & Charter Rights — of our unrivalled Loyalty & Affection to his Person, Family & Government [56.] Of our acknowledged Constitutional subordination to the supreme Legislative power of the Nation, and of the hardships & grievances which lye upon us

under the operation of the said Act, together with such humble supplication to his Majesty, as may prevail upon him graciously to recommend its Repeal —

The above Report having been duly Considered, it was Voted unanimously that the same be accepted.

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, that the foregoing Instructions be printed in the public News Papers —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 13th. of January A.D. 1768. —

[57.] Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read.

Samuel Grant Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, as required by an Act of this Province —

The Committee appointed the 28th. of October last “to consider of some Measures for employing the Poor of the Town of Boston, by reviving the Linnen Manufacture, and in such other ways as shall be thought most beneficial” — Report

That having Reported their Sentiments to the Town on the 22^d December last as to the carrying on the Linnen Manufacture and therein suggested their Opinion as to the great probability there was, that the making of Duck or Sail Cloth upon suitable encouragement given, would employ the Poor and be fully as beneficial to the Public as any other Manufacture whatsoever though they were not then able to inform the Town as to the process in making Duck or Sail Cloth, but as they expected answers to Letters they had wrote relative to this Article, they were in hopes when they should them, they should be able to lay a Plan before the Town for carrying this Manufacture on in such a manner as to answer the grand design of the Town, viz^t. — Employing the Poor of it —

And as the Committee were then desired by the Town to continue their good offices for effecting this Plan, the Committee accordingly beg leave to Report — That they have received answers to the Letters referred to, & had a long conversation with a Gentleman who has been concerned in this Manufacture and procured such other information about it, that they are of opinion the manufacturing of Duck or Sail Cloth, may be set up and carried on, so as to employ all the poor Women and Children of the Town and render it very beneficial to the Community. And there is this peculiar advantage in this Manufacture, that Duck can be made either with Flax or Hemp of our own growth or Forreign

Hemp, which can at all times be [58.] Procured and so not liable to fail by reason of a drought, whereas the Linnen Manufacture depended wholly on the growth of Flax, has by sorrowful experience failed heretofore on that Account to the great detriment of this Town. But for the effecting this Plan, it will be necessary that Suitable encouragement be given by the Public to such Persons as shall appear to undertake and carry on the same; and for this end the Committee would humbly propose— First That the Government should grant the use of the Manufactory House in Boston to the Undertakers, for so long time as they shall continue to carry on the Manufacturing of Duck, Check or plain Linnen— *Secondly* That a Sum be immediately raised by Subscription and given to the Undertakers, for the purchasing Looms, Wheels and other Utensils, necessary for carrying on said Business; learning of Spinners and paying such other incidental Charges as may arise— *Thirdly*— That for purchasing such a Stock for carrying on this Manufacture as will answer the good purposes proposed it will be necessary for the Undertakers to hire a considerable Sum of Money, for which they must give their own personal security and pay the Interest thereof.

And as the prospect of advantage is not sufficient to induce any to engage in it without some assistance from such as are of ability to afford it; The Committee would propose that a Subscription be opened for the Annual payment of such a Sum as each Person should incline to give for the space of Five Years; this is to be given to the Undertakers to enable them to pay the Interest of the Moneys they shall borrow—

With this encouragement the Committee are in hopes some Persons of Character & Resolution will appear to undertake this Manufacture; which if any do and success attends the same, it will be not only a constant Employ to the Poor, but be greatly advantageous to the Town in many other respects; and this encouragement as proposed, the Committee apprehend none can have any objection to; and doubt not such a spirit and disposition will prevail in the Inhabitants, as that this Plan may be prosecuted in such a manner as the good effects of it may be, & continued [59.] With the Inhabitants of this Town and their Posterity forever.

The Committee beg leave further to inform the Town, that Mr. John Brown who now lives in the Factory, did make a proposal that he would engage on certain Conditions to manufacture and deliver them Linnens at the same price they are imported from London; which proposal the Committee have carefully examined and considered; and it appeared to them a very considerable Sum must have been advanced, to enable them to carry on the Manufacture, for which he could give no security; And it further appeared to the Committee that it was not practicable for him to comply with the proposals he had made; therefore they cannot advise the Town to pursue it at present—

But the Committee would recommend it to the Gentlemen who may undertake the making of Sail Cloth, if it should appear to them that Check Linnen can be made to advantage, that they

would employ some part of the Money subscribed to encourage that branch —

In the Name and by Order of the Committee —

JOHN BARRET —

The above Report having been read and considered, Voted, that the same be accepted, and that the Thanks of the Town be given the Gentlemen of the Committee for the Pains they have taken in the affair also —

Voted, that the Gentlemen of the above Committee be desired to procure Undertakers for the Execution of the Scheme; and when Undertakers shall appear, the Town recommend to the Inhabitants a Subscription for said purpose — It was further

Voted, that the Gentlemen who Represent the Town in General Assembly, be and hereby are desired to countenance & forward all in their power any application that may be made to the Court by the Undertakers for their Assistance in said Undertaking —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given Samuel Grant Esq. Moderator —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[60.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 14th. Day of March Anno Domini 1768 —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. D^r. Cooper —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read.

Sundry Laws enjoind to be read at this Meeting, were accordingly read —

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island Governments as required by an Act of this Province. —

William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing, and having taken the Oath respecting his paying & receiving Bills of Credit of the Connecticut and other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty, which Oaths were Administred to him by M^r. Justice Dana —

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted, it appeared that

Coll^o. Joseph Jackson

Samuel Sewall Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

John Hancock Esq.

(all sworn)

William Phillips Esq.

M^r. Timothy Newell

John Rowe Esq.

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing —

[61.] The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

John Barrett Esq.
 The Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq.
 M^r. Benjamin Dolbear
 M^r. William Whitwell
 M^r. William Greanleaff
 William White Esq.
 M^r. Joseph Waldo
 John Leaveret Esq.
 John Gore Esq.
 Cap^t. Samuel Partridge
 Thomas Tyler Esq.
 Cap^t. John Bradford

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Jonathan Williams Esq. for his good Services the Year past as an Overseer of the Poor —

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Wardens, and upon sorting them, it appeared that,

Henry Loyd Esq. - - - - - excused
 Jonathan Simpson Esq.
 John Hancock Esq.
 William Blair Townsend - - - d^o.
 Cap^t. John Marston
 Cap^t. William Downe Cheever
 M^r. Nathan Hancock
 M^r. Samuel Barrett
 M^r. John Sweetser Jun^r.
 M^r. Hopestill Capon
 M^r. John May
 M^r. Samuel Dyer

[62.]

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing.

2 more see after

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire Wards and upon sorting them it appeared that —

John Scollay Esq.
 Newman Grenough Esq.
 John Rowe Esq.
 John Rowe Esq.
 William Cooper
 M^r. John Mico Wendell
 Coll^o. Thomas Marshall
 William Homes Esq.
 M^r. Joseph Tyler
 Cap^t. Adino Paddock
 M^r. James Richardson
 Maj^r. James Cunningham
 Cap^t. Benjamin Waldo
 John Hancock Esq.
 M^r. Samuel Adams
 Cap^t. Martin Gay
 Thomas Daws Esq.

were chose Fire Wards for the Year ensuing.

Cap^t. William Downe Cheever having declined Serving as a Fire Ward by reason of his ill state of Health. — Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given him for his good services in that Office some Years past —

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to Jonathan Williams Esq. for his good services as a Fire-Ward some Years past —

[63.] The Town brought in their Votes for a Town Treasurer, & upon sorting them it appeared, that M^r. David Jeffries was chosen & having taken the Oath relating to his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments; took the Oaths of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty, which Oaths were Administred to him by M^r. Justice Dana —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — the Question was put — “Whether Constables and Collectors of Taxes shall be chose separate,” — Passed in the Affermative —

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds be Remitted out of the Ten Pound Fine to such Person as shall be chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing, and shall decline serving —

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Clerks of the Market, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mess ^{rs} . Benjamin Clark	- - -	excused
Samuel Barrett	- - -	d ^o .
Edward Lyde		Sworn
John Avery Jun ^r .		d ^o .
Cap ^t . Thomas Brattle		
Cap ^t . William Wingfield		d ^o .
M ^r . John Gridley		
M ^r . George Green		
M ^r . Thomas Pitts		
M ^r . John Cushing		
M ^r . Robert Duncan		
M ^r . John Gore Jun ^r .		

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing —

see two more.

M^r. John Gray
was chosen Surveyer of Hemp for the Year ensuing.

[64.] Mess^{rs}. William Nichols
Andrew Symms
Clement Collins
Henry Allen
Isaac Vergoose
John Grenough
Jacob Thayer
Joseph Edmunds
John Skillens
John Sergeant
Richard Walker
John Champny
Samuel Turner
John Bulfinch

one more

were chose Surveyers of Boards & Shingles for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Samuel Dyer
John Dyer
Obediah Low
John Joy
William Craffts

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner
Samuel Whitwell

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. Ebenezer McIntosh
Samuel Bangs
William Andrews
John Shepherd - - - Sworn
William Stevenson

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing —

[65.] Mess^{rs}. Peter Cotta
Manessch Masters
Joseph Dyer
John Haskins
David Spear
Jonathan Jenkins
Robert Brick Jun^r.
Job Wheelwright
Joshua Pico
Benjamin Salt
Paul Baxter
John Owen
Thomas Knox
Samuel White
Edward Cowell
Edward Potter
Peter Ellis
Timothy Pease
Nathaniel Waterman
Jacob Williams
Samuel Bernard
John Newell
Joseph Phillips

see more

were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing —

Mess^{rs}. David Simens
Thomas Curtis

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing —

M^r. Edward Curtis was chosen Hayward for the Year ensuing —

The Selectmen

were chose Surveyers of High Ways for the Year ensuing —

[66.] Coll^o. Joseph Jackson
William Phillips Esq.
William Homes Esq.

were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, and they are desir'd and empowered to give all needful Direction to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the Quantity of Grain to be sold, and affixing the price thereof from Time to Time as occasion shall require —

Cap^t. Martin Gay
Mr. John Skinner

were chose Assay Master for the Year ensuing —

Voted that Mr. Thomas Gray
Ezekiel Golthwait Esq.
Mr. Moses Gill
Mr. John Boylston
Jonathan Williams Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Accompts of Mr. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accompts of the Overseers of the Poor, and the said Committee are enjoyned to inspect every particular Account of the Moneys Expended for the use of the Alms-house, they are also impowered when they shall Audit said Accompts to allow such of the Overseers as shall Advance Moneys for the Relief of the Poor, Interest on all such Sums from the Time so advanced, till they shall have Audited said Accompts. —

John Tudor Esq.
Mr. John White

were chose Surveyers of Wheat for the Year ensuing —

Upon a Motion made & seconded, Voted, that the choice of a Clerk for Faneuil Hall Market, be left with the Selectmen —

[67.] Upon a Motion made and seconded it was Voted, that one Scavenger be chosen out of every Ward —

Mess ^{rs} . Nathaniel Baker	- - - - -	Ward N ^o . 1
After Stoddard	- - - - -	2
Benjamin Page	- - - - -	3
Zachary Fowle	- - - - -	4
Isaac Greenwood	- - - - -	5
Daniel Flagg	- - - - -	6
Ephraim Copeland	- - - - -	7
Timothy White	- - - - -	8
Nathaniel Hurd	- - - - -	9
Oliver Wiswell	- - - - -	10
John Bartlett	- - - - -	11
Thomas Chase	- - - - -	12

were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to inforce the Duty of the Scavengers upon them, and if they should find any Defect in the Laws relative to those Officers, that they Report the same to the Town, that they may act thereon as they may Judge convenient —

Voted, that Mr. Ezekiel Price
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Melatiah Bourn Esq.

be a Committee to bring in a form of a Vote relative to a Premium for the Collectors of Taxes —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Sum of

Thirty Pounds be and hereby is allowed to James Clemmens for his Salary as Clerk of Faneuil Hall Market —

Voted, that the Consideration of School Masters Salaries and all other Salaries & Grants be referred over to next May Meeting —

[68.] The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors and upon sorting them it appeared that

M^r. William Fairfield
 M^r. John Kneeland,
 M^r. Benjamin Church
 Belcher Noyes Esq.
 M^r. William Torrey
 M^r. Jonathan Brown
 M^r. Daniel Pecker

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing —

The Selectmen Reported on Accompts of M^r. Benjamin Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past, which Account as entered in his Books (and on file in the Town Clerks Office) was read, whereupon it was Voted, that the same be accepted, and that M^r. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 810. Bushels of Indian Corn and 34 Bushels of Rye amounting to £112., 10., 8, and also for the Sum of £155., 9., 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ Cash now in his hands exclusive of the Sum of £32., 13., 4 for his Salary and Attendance as charged in his Account which is hereby allowed him.

Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are impowered and directed, to set for the Abatement of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Thursday till the first Thursday in April inclusive and no longer, saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November, for the Abatement of the Taxes of such Persons as had not an Opportunity of applying on the above limited Time, by reason of their being out of the Proviuce; at which Time they are also allowed and impowered to Abate the Taxes of such Persons, as may have died Insolvent between the said last Thursday in April and the last Day of November —

The Selectmen as a Committee appointed by the Town to [69.] Consider Mary Pratts Petition, praying that an Allowance for Reasons therein mentioned, might be made on a Debt due from her late Husband Ebenezer Pratt deceased, for Rent of Deer Island, have attended that Business and Reported —

That the Petitioners Reasons for the above mentioned Allowance taken from the Circumstances of the two Years Drought 1761 & 1762 — however otherwise well founded, loose their weight in the present application, when we recollect that the said Pratts Contract was at that Time with Thomas Goldthwait Esq. who then Leased the said Island of the Town, And under the present Lease her Pleas for Abatement of Rent would be more directly in favor of her Petition, was the said Island Leased to her Husband the said Ebenezer Pratt only; but M^r. Samuel Pratt her surviving Brother held the Lease Jointly with him, shared the Profit and now stands answerable for the Rent —

On the other hand it must be allowed that the Family have suffered much by the Sickness and Death of their Parent, as well as other Circumstances which occurred during their residence on said

Farm, and have since the said Petition was brought before the Town, been obliged to sell their Stock at a low rate and quit the Farm at the approach of last Winter, which Occurrences we apprehend rendered them Objects worthy of the Towns compassionate Notice — Wherefore your Committee beg leave to recommend to the Town an allowance of such a Sum as shall be deemed meet for their relief to be paid to the said Mary for the use of her Family out of the Rent for said Island coming to the Town on the last mentioned Lease, when the same shall be received into the Town Treasury —

The above Report being read & considered, Voted, that the same be accepted, and that the Sum of Thirteen Pounds six Shillings and eight Pence be paid to the said Mary Pratt for the use of her Family out of the Rent for said Island coming to the Town on the last mentioned Lease, when the same shall be received into the Town Treasury —

Adjourned to 3. O^c.Clock. P: M:

[70.] Town met according to adjournment —

The Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “ Whether Interest shall be Allowed on the Moneys left unpaid of the Sums Voted the late Samuel Wentworth and John Hill Esq. for their Interest on the Neck 1764. “ was read and Considered, whereupon —

Voted, that Interest be and hereby is allowed on said Sums, from the Time when they become due, untill they shall be paid and discharged —

The Committee respecting Collectors Premium Reported whereupon —

Voted, That the Sum of Twelve Pence on the Pound be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of Taxes for the Year ensuing for all such Sums as they shall Collect, provided they pay into the several Treasuries, the whole Sum committed to them to Collect on or before the tenth Day of August 1769. Eight Pence on the Pound on all such other Sums, as they shall have so paid in to said Treasurers on or before the 20 Day of December 1769, and Four Pence on the Pound upon the remainder of the Sum they shall be obliged to Collect, provided such remainder shall be fully paid in on or before the second Monday in March 1770 — this Premium as above expressed appears to be Just & equitable, and an ample allowance to the Collectors to encourage them to discharge their Duty with diligence and fidelity — provided also that such of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties to the satisfaction of the Selectmen for the faithful discharge of their Duty in said Office, and complying with this Vote

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted that

Foster Hutchinson Esq.
Melatiah Bourn Esq.
M^r. Edward Payne
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.
John Hancock Esq.
Jonathan Williams Esq.
M^r. Ezekiel Price

[71.]

be a Committee to Examine into the state of the Town Treasury, and to consider of some Method for the better transacting the Money Affairs of the Town for the future, and to make Report of the same next May Meeting —

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Constables, the Persons chose into that Office and sworn are

Mess^{rs}. Augustus Hail
 Francis Salmon
 Peter Barbour
 Edward Baker - - - - excused.
 Hezekiah Usher
 Lindsey George Wallis
 Daniel Berry
 Benjamin Adams

see more.

The Town brought in their Votes for a County Treasurer, which were sealed up and delivered to M^r. Constable Lindsey George to be returned to the Court of Sessions —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that

M^r. Sampson Salter
 M^r. Edward Hollyday
 M^r. Samuel Ruggles
 M^r. Abraham Savage

were chose into that Office —

The Town taking into consideration that Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “ Of such Methods as may be Judged necessary to promote [72.] The carrying on the Manufactory of Duck lately undertaken by John Barrett Esq. and others, and granting them such encouragement & assistance towards prosecuting the same, as shall be effectual for the good purposes thereby proposed ” — Voted, that

M^r. Ebenezer Storer
 Benjamin Austin Esq.
 M^r. William Whitwell
 Thomas Daws Esq.
 M^r. Joseph Waldo
 M^r. Moses Gill
 M^r. Samuel Austin
 M^r. William Greanleaff
 M^r. William Gray
 Cap^t. Samuel Partridge
 M^r. Nathaniel Barbour
 M^r. John Ballard

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to take Subscriptions of such Persons as shall incline to encourage the Undertaking, the same to be applyed for the purposes mentioned in the Vote of the Town at their last Meeting. And it is recommended to said Committee that they exert themselves to the utmost of their power to obtain Subscriptions, as the Town apprehend that if suitable Encouragement be given in this Affair and it be prosecuted with Resolution, it must Employ great numbers of the Poor

Persons who are a burthen and Expence to the Town, and be otherwise very beneficial to the Inhabitants—

The Article in the Warrant, Viz'.—“That some Agreement may be come into not to purchase any Lamb before a particular Time affixed by the Town,” was read & considered whereupon

Voted that M^r. Benjamin Harrod

Cap^t. Fortesque Vernon

John Tudor Esq.

Cap^t. William Mackay

[73.]

Cap^t. Jonathan Carey

M^r. Samuel Fletcher

M^r. Samuel Emms

M^r. Thomas Jackson

M^r. Christopher Clark

M^r. John Presson

M^r. Henry Hill

M^r. James Swift

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to obtain Subscriptions to an Agreement not to purchase any Lamb untill the First Day of July next, and the Town recommend to the Inhabitants to Subscribe to so salutary a purpose—

The Committee appointed to Examine the Accompts of M^r. David Jeffries Town Treasurer have attended that Service, and find the same right Cast and well vouched; in which he charges himself with Sundry Fines, Rents, and other Incomes of the Town, as also with the Tax of £5500— all which amount to the Sum of £11285 ,, 11 ,, 5½ including the balance of Old Account—

And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abate-ments made the Collectors amounting to £819 ,, 3 ,, 9, by Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3600 ,, 3 ,, ¼ of which he has paid £2595 ,, 11 ,, 2¼, and by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the Charges of the Almshouse amounting to £3150 ,, 19 ,, 1 of which he has paid £1873 ,, 6 ,, 5¼— also by sundry Sums paid for Interest amounting to £61 ,, 3 ,, 8½ the whole amounting to £7639 ,, 19 ,, 8¼—

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very particular manner; and have examined the Vouchers produced by Overseers of the Poor, for the amount of their Drafts, and every other branch of public Charge amounting in all as above to £7639 ,, 19 ,, 8¼ as by Account of Town Treasurer in the Town Treasurers Books balance whereof being £3645 ,, 11 ,, 9¼ is carried to the Credit of New Account— Which Report & Account being read, Voted, that the same be and hereby is accepted—

[74.] That Article in the Warrant Viz'.—“That some Measures may be come into to prevent Frauds in the Measure of Indian Meal &c.” was read and Considered, whereupon—

Voted, that M^r. Samuel Blodget

Benjamin Kent Esq.

M^r. George Bethune

Coll^o. John Hill

Benjamin Hallowell Esq.

be a Committee to take this Matter into further Consideration, and Report and the Adjournment —

The Article in the Warrant Viz'. — “ What may be proper to be done for the preservation and improvement of the Towns Land on the Neck ” was read and considered, whereupon

Voted, that M^r. James Richardson
M^r. Henderson Inches
M^r. William Whitwell
M^r. Edward Payne
M^r. Thomas Walley

be a Committee to Consider of this Matter, and Report at the Adjournment.

The Article in the Warrant, Viz'. — “ To enquire into the state of the Grist Mills, and the Reason why that near the Bridge has been so long unimproved ” and determine what is necessary to be done relative to said Mills ” was read and debated, whereupon

Voted, that John Tuder Esq.
Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq^r.
John Barret Esq.

be a Committee to Consider of this Matter, and Report at the Adjournm^t.

The Petition of M^r. Samuel Adams a late Collector of Taxes praying, “ that a further Time may be allowed him to Collect his Outstanding Debts, that he may be enabled thereby to compleat the Obligation [75.] Of his Bond ” was read and largely debated, whereupon

Voted, that the Prayer of the Petition be granted, and that a further Time of Six Months be allowed him for Collecting his Taxes, and that the Treasurer be directed to stay Execution untill that Time

The Article in the Warrant Viz'. — “ To consider of the Request of a number of the Inhabitants, that the Town would come into some Methods for the prevention of Frauds in the purchase of Hay and Wood; and also whether further Measures may not be taken for the Assistance of the Assessors relative to Dooming the Inhabitants ” was read and debated whereupon,

Voted, that M^r. Samuel Blodgett
Samuel Swift Esq.
Thomas Daws Esq.

be a Committee to Consider of these Matters & Report at the Adjournment.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given to the Author of a course of Letters lately published and signed *A Farmer*, and that - - -

D^r. Benjamin Church
John Hancock Esq.
M^r. Samuel Adams
D^r. Joseph Warren
John Rowe Esq.

be a Committee to prepare and publish a Letter of Thanks accordingly —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Thursday the 22^d. Day of March Inst^d. 10 O'Clock A : M : —

Tuesday the 22^d. March 1768 — 10 O'Clock A : M : Met according to Adjournment —

The Town brought in their Votes for Five Constables, the Persons chose into that Office are

[76.] Mess^{rs}. Benjamin White
Edward Hall
Samuel Bernard
Stephen Symms
John Wells

The Town brought in their Votes for two Clerks of the Market, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

M^r. Samuel Calf
M^r. Nicholas Bowes

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing —

The Committee on the Farmers Letters having Reported, had leave of the Town to Report again —

The Petition of M^r. James Dalton "that he may be reimbursed the Sum he remains indebted for completing the Pavement of the New Street leading from Water Street into Milk Street" was read, whereupon

Voted, that — M^r. William Fairfield
Benjamin Kent Esq.
Thomas Daws Esq.

be a Committee to take the same into Consideration and Report as soon as may be —

M^r. Samuel Adams a late Collector of Taxes came into Meeting and informed the Inhabitants, that he should at the expiration of the term allowed by the Town for the Collecting for *Collecting* his Taxes, by their Vote the 14 Instant lay a state of his Affairs before the Town —

The Petition of M^r. James Carter Usher of the North Writing School "that a further Allowance be made him," was read, whereupon

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take this Petition into Consideration, & Report as soon as may be [77.] Agreeable to a printed Notification it was moved & seconded, that the Votes passed on Monday last on the Memorial of M^r. Samuel Adams Viz^d. — "That a further Time of Six Months be allowed him for Collecting his Taxes; and that the Treasurer be directed to stay Execution untill that Time" be now Re-Considered; and after considerable debate had thereon the Question was accordingly put, which passed in the Negative by a great majority

Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P : M :

3 O'Clock P : M : Met according to Adjournment —

Jurors were drawn out of the Box for April Court, and a List delivered to M^r. Constable Barbour —

M^r. Abraham Howard

was chosen a Surveyer of Boards, for the Year ensuing

The Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the Grist

Mills, Reported, and the Question being put — “ Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Negative —

The Town brought in their Votes for Two Wardens, and upon sorting them it appeared, that —

James Murray - - - - excused
M^r. Thomas Leveret

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing —

The Committee relative to Frauds in Wood & Hay &c. made a Verbal Report, and had the leave of the Town to Report again —

The Town taking into further Consideration the Petition of M^r. Samuel Adams a late Collector “ that a further Time may be allowed him [78.] To Collect his Outstanding Debts,” &c.

Voted, that The Moderator M^r. Otis
Richard Dana Esq.
John Hancock Esq.
Benjamin Kent Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to wait upon the Province Treasurer and M^r. Sheriff Greanleaff to desire that the Warrant of Distress or Execution issued by the Province Treasurer against the said M^r. Samuel Adams a defective Collector for this Town 1764 may be stayed for Six Months —

The following Letter was Reported by the Committee appointed for that purpose — Viz^t. —

To the ingenious Author of certain patriotick Letters, Subscribed a Farmer —

Much Respected Sir

When the Rights and Liberties, of the numerous and Loyal Inhabitants of this extensive Continent are in imminent Danger — when the inveterate Enemies of these Colonies are not more assideous to forge Fetters for them, then diligent to delude the People, and to persuade them to an indolent Acquiescence: At this alarming Period, when to Reject is deemed to Revolt, and to oppose such Measures as are injudicious and destructive, is construed as a formal Attempt to subvert Order and Government; when to Reason is to Rebel; and a ready submission to the Rod of Power, is solicited by the Tenders of Place & Patronage, or urged by the menace of danger and disgrace; Tis to you worthy Sir! that America is obliged for a most seasonable, sensible loyal & vigorous Vindication of her invaded Rights & Liberties: Tis to you the distinguished Honor is due; that when many of the Friends of Liberty were ready to fear its utter Subversion: Armed with Truth, supported by the immutable Laws of Nature, the common Inheritance of Man, and leaning on the Pillars of the British Constitution; you seasonably brought your Aid, opposed impending Ruin [79.] Awakened the most indolent and inactive to a sense of danger, reanimated the hopes of those, who had before exerted themselves in the Cause of Liberty, and instructed America in the best means to obtain Redress. —

Nor is this Western World alone indebted to your Wisdom, Fortitude and Patriotism; Great Britain also may be confirmed by you, that to be truly great and successful she must be Just:

That to Oppress America is to violate her own Honours, defeat her brightest Prospects, and contract her spreading Empire —

To such eminent Worth and Virtue the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, the Capitol of the Province of the *Massachusetts Bay* in full Town Meeting Assembled, express their earliest Gratitude: Actuated themselves by the same generous Principles, which appear with so much Lusture in your useful Labours, they will not fail warmly to recommend, and industriously to promote that Union among the several Colonies, which is so indispensably necessary for the security of the whole

Tho: such superior Merit, must assuredly in the closest Recess, enjoy the divine satisfaction of having saved & possibly saved this People; tho' yield from our view, you modestly shun the deserved applause of Millions; permit us to intrude upon your Retirement, and salute the *Farmer* as the *Friend of Americans*, and the common Benefactor of Mankind —

The above Letter was read, and unanimously accepted by the Town, and ordered to be published in the several News Papers —

John Powell

was chosen a Warden for the Year ensuing —

Upon a Motion made by Coll^o Jackson the Vote passed October 9. 1767 relative to a Gun House was read — and the Question being put, viz^t — Whether it be the sense of the Town that the Selectmen are by said Vote impowered to Erect another Building for said Service in such place as they shall think convenient — Passed in the Affermative —

[80.] Mr. Henry Lucas

was chosen a Culler of Staves for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that all Matters and Things which remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the General Town Meeting in May next —

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 4th Day of May. Anno Domini 1768 —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Samuel Blair —

The Precept and Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read —

Sundry Laws - - - - - read —

[81.] Joseph Jackson Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great & General Court or Assembly to be held in Boston upon Wednesday the 25 Day of May Current, and in order thereto to consider and

ascertain the number of Gentlemen to be Elected; accordingly it was Voted to proceed to the choice of Four Representatives and then it was declared by the Selectmen, that no Votes will be received but such as are unfolded, and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12. O'Clock —

The Votes being brought in the Number of the same were found to be 440. and upon sorting them it appeared that the Four following Gentlemen were chose — Viz^t. —

The Hon ^{ble} . James Otis Esq. - - - - -	410
The Hon ^{ble} . Thomas Cushing Esq. - - - - -	433
M ^r . Samuel Adams - - - - -	432
John Hancock Esq. - - - - -	414

The choice of Representatives being over and declared by the Selectmen the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting, in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant; accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew, and brought in their Votes, and upon sorting them it appeared, that the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen —

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 4. 1768

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their Annual Meeting the 8. of May 1767 desiring the Selectmen to visit the several public Schools in the Town, and to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein as they should think proper, and to Report thereon —

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that service on Wednesday the First Day of July last accompanied by the following [82.] Gentlemen, Viz^t. —

- The Hon^{ble}. James Bowdoin Esq.
- Nathaniel Sparhawk Esq.
- Andrew Oliver Esq.
- Thomas Hubbard Esq.
- Harrison Gray Esq.
- John Erving Esq.
- Thomas Flucker Esq.
- James Pitts Esq.
- The Representatives of the Town
- The Overseers of the Poor
- The Rev^d. Joseph Sewall D. D.
- Charles Chansey D. D.
- Mather Byles D. D.
- M^r. Samuel Mather
- M^r. Samuel Checkley
- M^r. Ebenezer Pemberton
- M^r. Andrew Eliot
- M^r. Samuel Cooper
- M^r. Samuel Checkley
- M^r. Samuel Blair
- M^r. Penuil Bowen
- M^r. Semion Howard
- Benjamin Austin Esq.

William Vassal Esq.
 M^r. Moreton
 M^r. John Edwards
 M^r. William D. Cheever
 M^r. Loring
 M^r. John Joy
 D^r. John Sprague
 M^r. Treasurer Jeffries
 Joshua Henshaw Esq.
 M^r. Edward Payne
 M^r. John Boylston
 Cap^t. Nathaniel Greenwood
 Newman Grenough Esq.
 M^r. Thomas Grenough
 The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq.

[83.]

And found the South Grammar School had 147 Scholars; the
 Writing
 North Grammar School 35 Scholars; the South Grammar School
 270 Scholars the North Writing School 284 Scholars; the
 Writing School in Queen Street 217 Scholars; all in very good
 order —

Voted, that the above Report be accepted, and that the Gentle-
 men the Selectmen be desired to visit the public Schools the Year
 ensuing, and invite such Gentlemen to accompany them as they
 may think proper —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3 O'Clock P: M:

3. O'Clock P: M: Met according to adjournment.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Town
 Treasurer be directed to ascertain the Town of the Sums of Money
 which they have hired upon Interest, which was accordingly done
 by the Treasurer

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred and twenty Pounds be al-
 lowed and paid unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of
 the South Grammar School, for the ensuing Year, the same to be
 paid him quarterly, as it shall become due, & to commence at the
 expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed & paid
 unto M^r. Samuel Hunt, for his Salary as Master of the North
 Grammar School, for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him
 Quarterly, as it shall become due, and to commence at the expira-
 tion of the last Quarter —

[84.] Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be al-
 low'd and paid unto M^r. Abiah Holbrook for his Salary as Master
 of the Writing School in the Common for the Year ensuing, the
 same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to
 commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allow'd and
 paid unto M^r. John Procter for his Salary as Master of the Writing
 School in Queen Street for the Year ensuing, the same to be paid
 him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the ex-
 piration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and

paid unto M^r. John Tileston, for His Salary as Master of the North Writing School the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School, for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that a further Sum of Forty Pounds be allow'd and paid unto M^r. James Lovel as an encouragement for him to remain and exert himself in the Service of the Town the ensuing Year; the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due & to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter. —

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) "Whether the Town will take any measures to supply the vacancy at the School in Queen Street, occasioned by M^r. Holyokes Death" was read & considered, whereupon

[85.] Voted, that M^r. James Carter, who has for some Years past been an Assistant to M^r. John Tileston, be and hereby is appointed an Usher to the Writing School in Queen Street, of which M^r. John Procter is now Master.

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Carter for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in Queen Street the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that a further Sum of Twenty five Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Carter as an encouragement for him to exert himself in the Service in the Town the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter. —

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^r. Abiah Holbrook Master of the Writing School in the Common for providing an Assistant the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasurer unto M^r. David Jeffries for his services as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office —

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed and empowered to allow the several School Masters Interest on the Sums due to them from the Date of their Warrants to the Time of payment —

Voted, that the Sum of Six thousand Pounds be raised by a Tax upon Polls & Estates within this Town, for Relief of the Poor, & defraying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year —

[86.] Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Town Treasurer be, and he hereby is desired and empowered to borrow on Interest the Sum of One hundred thirty three Pounds

six Shillings and eight Pence, for the use of the Overseers of the Poor, to purchase Grain &c. for the Almshouse —

see further. —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants “that application may be made to the General Assembly at the next Session, that the Town may be empowered by Law to choose an additional Number of Fire-Wards” — was read, and after Debate had thereon the Question being put, Whether the Prayer of the Petition shall be granted — Passed in the Negative —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, that at the Annual Town Meeting in March next, there shall be One Fire-Ward chosen out of each of the Wards in this Town, the Number allowed by Law permitting it —

The Petition of William Cooper Town Clerk “that the Selectmen may be permitted to allow him for his extra Services the Year past, as had been allowed him and the former Clerk in preceeding Years, a doubt having arisen in their Minds as to the propriety of their doing it without the permission of the Town” — was read and debate had thereon whereupon —

Voted, that The Hon^{ble}. James Pitts, Esq.

The Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq.

Richard Dana Esq.

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Hubbard Esq.

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Flucker Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take the same into Consideration, and they are desired to Report at the Adjournment —

The Clause in the Warrant Viz^t. “Whether a new Gun House shall be Erected of Brick, for the use of the Train of the Artillery belonging to the Regiment of Boston,” was read, whereupon

[87.] Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are directed and impowered to cause to be Erected as soon as may be a Gun House of Brick, for the use of the said Train of Artillery. —

The Clause in the Warrant (Viz^t.) — Whether the Town will take any Measures to encourage the Erecting of the New Mills on the Mill Creek as has been proposed,” was read — whereupon

Voted, that Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

M^r. Edward Payne

Benjamin Kent Esq.

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

John Barrett Esq.

be a Committee to take this Matter into Consideration, and Report their Opinion at the Adjournment —

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “To consider of some proper Representations to be made respecting the Difficulties the Trade labours under by means of the late Regulations, and Methods to be taken for our Relief” was read — whereupon Voted, that

M^r. Henderson Inches

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis, Esq.

D^r. Joseph Warren

D^r. Benjamin Church

Mr. Samuel Adams
 The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq.
 John Rowe Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take the same into Consideration and Report at the Adjournment —

The Committee appointed the 14th. Day of March last, to procure Subscriptions from the Inhabitants of this Town for carrying on the Manufacture of Duck, or Sail Cloth, and for encouraging & assisting [88.] The Gentlemen who have undertaken the same — Report, that since their Appointment they have used their utmost Endeavours to get Subscriptions for the Sums that the Town Judged necessary to be raised for the Undertakers in order to enable them to begin and carry on said Manufacture, having made personal application to almost every Inhabitant that the Committee apprehended was of Ability to afford any Assistance; but it is with concern that the Committee must inform the Town that their endeavours have not met with that success they expected, having been able to get Subscribed but about One hundred & fifty Pounds being half the Sum thought necessary to be paid down for the purchase of Utensils, and about One hundred Pounds as an annual subscription for five and Seven Years, being but a third part of the Sum Judged necessary to be raised Annually for carrying on this Manufacture, and effecting the good end proposed by the Town.

The above report having been read — Voted, that said Committee be desired to use their best endeavours to obtain further Subscriptions for the purposes aforesaid —

To the Freeholders and Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 4: 1768 —
 Gentlemen

We the Subscribers having undertaken to carry on the Manufacture of Duck or Sail Cloth in this Town on our own account and risque, upon the Proposals and terms mentioned in the Report of the Town Committee, made the 13th. of January last, which was unanimously accepted by the Town, and the Encouragement therein given to the Undertakers Judged by the Town to be necessary; another Committee was then chose to obtain Subscriptions from the Inhabitants for that purpose who we are assured have diligently apply'd themselves to this service, but it is with concern we find by their Report made this Day, that the whole of the Subscriptions they have been able to procure, are greatly short of the Sum Judged absolutely necessary for setting up and carrying on this Manufacture, so as to establish it in [89.] The manner proposed, viz. — that it might be a dayly and constant Employment for the Poor. We would inform the Town that considering the good ends designed by this Manufacture, and no ways doubting but the Encouragement proposed by the Selectmen would be obtained, we have since the said 13th. of January spent much Time, taking great pains and been at some expence in our preparations for entring upon this new Manufacture, and we should have thought ourselves happy in being Instruments of establishing the same, as it would have been such a constant employ for the Poor, and been a means of extricating the Town from the heavy

Expencc incurred in supporting them. We cant but express our surprize that a Manufacture so beneficial to the Town in general, and the Poor in particular should meet with so small encouragement especially from the most wealthy of its Inhabitants, many of whom have refused contributing any thing to this Undertaking. It has been suggested by some that the profits arising to the Undertakers will be a sufficient encouragement to set up and carry on this Manufacture at their own Expencc and risque, such Persons must be very ignorant of this Affair; our design in pursuing this Business is not to enrich ourselves, but for employing the many Poor we have in the Town and giving them a Livelihood. We do now openly propose that if any of these Gentlemen or others of the Inhabitants will in our stead undertake & carry on this Manufacture, so as that the Poor may be Employed, we will now chearfully give up our right to the Manufactory House (generously granted us by the General Court) and to all the Moneys Subscribed, and will be glad to be Subscribers ourselves. We think we have done everything in our power to employ the Poor, tho' it is like to fail of success, through the insufficiency of the Subscriptions —

JOHN BARRETT,
EZEKIEL GOLDTHWAIT
MELETIAH BOURN
EDWARD PAYNE
HENDERSON INCHES

[90.] Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to act upon the List of Jurors.

Samuel Swift and Thomas Daws, Esq^r. two of the Committee appointed on the 14 Day of March last “To consider of the Request of a number of the Inhabitants that the Town would come into some Methods for the prevention of Frauds in the purchase of Hay and Wood; and also whether further Measures may not be taken for the Assistance of the Assessors relative to Dooming the Inhabitants” having desired to be excused from that service, were accordingly excused by the Town, and M^r. Joseph Henderson and M^r. James Richardson were appointed in their stead —

A Motion was then made and seconded to reconsider that part of the above Vote respecting the Assessors, and the Question being put it passed in the Negative.

Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are directed to furnish the above Committee with the Books and Papers they may require —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, That the Selectmen be directed to refuse the use of Faneuil Hall to his Excell^y. the Governor and Council on the Ensuing Election Day unless they shall be ascertained that the Commissioners of the Board of Customs, or their Attendants are not to be invited to dine there on said Day —

The Committee appointed the 22^d. of March last to consider the Petition of M^r. James Dalton, praying, “that he may be reimbursed the Sum he remains indebted for completing the pavement of the new Street boding from Water Street to Milk Street.”

Reported — That they had heard Mr. Dalton and compared his Petition with the Town Grant, and apprehend there is nothing fully due to him from the Town —

[91.] The Report on the other side having been read, the Question was put, Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday the 23^d. of May Instant 10 O'Clock Before Noon —

May 23. 10. O'Clock A : M : Met according to Adjournment —

The Committee to whom was referred the Consideration of the Petition of William Cooper Town Clerk — Report that having met and fully heard the within named William Cooper in support of his within mentioned Petition, with the Objections of the Selectmen of Boston against it (except two of them who appeared & made no Objections) and after viewing the Selectmens Minute Books of many Years past, and enquiring of diverse of the Selectmen of Boston, do find that it hath been the constant usage and practise of the Selectmen in passing the Accounts of the Town Clerk to allow them from Fifteen to Seventeen Pounds lawful Money by the Year for their Extraordinary Services over and above their particular Annual Accounts; that for several Years past the present Clerk has been allowed twenty Pounds a Year for such services, saving the two last Years, in which they have made him no Allowance at all for them; That upon comparing the said Mr. Coopers Accounts of particulars for those two Years with diverse of his former Accounts as well as of the Accounts of his immediate Predecessors, they can see no reason for denying him a meet reward for his extra services in those Years; especially considering that besides the usual extra services in those two Years, as well as in former Years, the drawing Orders Certificates Writing Letters, and drawing other Writings, attending on Subscribers for promoting Oeconomy the last Year, require considerable labour & expend much Time, besides his constant Personal attendance on the Selectmen at their Meetings, other than their stated ones &c. &c. which last Article of [92.] Attendance alone, at the rate of the Town Clerks allowance for their stated Meetings amounts in the last Year to above Eleven Pounds of lawful Money — Wherefore upon the whole the Committee are unanimously of Opinion, that the said Mr. Cooper deserves at least Seventeen Pounds of lawful Money a Year for his extra services in each of the two Years past, amounting in the whole to Thirty four Pounds of like Money over and above the amount of his Account of Particulars for each of those two Years, which have been already allowed him. All which is humbly submitted &c —

JAMES PITTS. p Order —

The above Report having been read, and very fully Considered, the Question was put. Viz^t. — Whether the above Report shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative —

Voted, that all Matters and things which remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the next General Town Meeting, to be then Considered of, and acted upon at said Meeting —

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to the Honourable James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[93.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 23^d. Day of May. Anno Domini. 1768 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - read —

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Connecticut New Hampshire & Rhode Island Governments, as required by an Act of this Province —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Three O'Clock. P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment

A letter from Samuel Sewall & William Phillips Esq^r. & M^r. Timothy Newell late Selectmen was laid before the Town —

The Town took up the Clause in the Warrant relative to the choice of three Selectmen in the room of Samuel Sewall, & William Phillips Esq. and M^r. Timothy Newell who have Resigned, and after some debate respecting the legality of choosing others in the room of those who had Resigned, after having accepted and acted as Selectmen, since March last — the Question was put, Viz^t. — Whether the Town will now proceed to the choice of three Selectmen; but a doubt arising respecting the Vote, a Poll was demanded on the Question, by M^r. Christopher Clark, and upon Polling it appeared that the Town was in the Affirmative —

The Town proceeded to the Choice of Three Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in sorted, it appeared, that

[94.] Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
M^r. Henderson Inches

were chose Selectmen for the remainder of the Year —

The Clause in the Warrant Viz^t. — “To take the Sense of the Town with Respect to an Excise on spirituous Liquors, and to Instruct the Representatives of the Town thereupon, if it should be Judg'd convenient, agreeable to the recommendation of the House of Representatives to the several Towns in the Province at the last Session of the General Assembly — was read and debated, whereupon

Voted, that it be and hereby is an Instruction to the Representatives of this Town, that they use their influence in the General Assembly at the ensuing Session, that there may not be any Excise laid upon Spirituous Liquors in any shape whatsoever —

M^r. Blodgett Chairman of the Towns Committee relative to Assessors, made a verbal Report, and also complained of the treatment they had received from the Assessors upon application made to them for the Tax Books —

Moved and seconded, that there be a re-consideration of the

Vote appointing a Committee to examine the Assessors Books &c. and the Question being accordingly put—Passed the Affirmative —

It was moved and accordingly put, That there be a reconsideration of a late Vote enjoining the Selectmen to refuse the use of Faneuil Hall to his Excellency the Governor & Council on the ensuing Election Day unless they shall be ascertained that the Commissioners of the Board of Customs or their Attendants are not to be Invited to dine there on said Day — which Question passed in the Negative almost unanimously. —

[95.] Upon a motion made and seconded Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is impowered to borrow on Interest the further Sum of Sixty six Pounds thirteen Shillings, and four Pence for the use of the Overseers of the Poor, to purchase Grain & for the Almshouse

The Committee relative to Grist Mills not being ready to Report at this Time, were desired to Report, the next Town Meeting —

Voted, that all Matters and Things which remain unfinished at this Meeting, be referred over to the next Town Meeting to be then considered of and acted upon at said Meeting —

Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a legal Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston at Faneuil Hall June 14th: Anno. Dom: 1768 —

The Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - Read —

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the usual Oaths, respecting paying and Receiving Bills of the New England Governments —

[96.] Faneuil Hall not being capacious enough to receive all the Inhabitants assembled, and those within the Walls being incommoded by the crowd — A Motion was made and it was accordingly Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Meet at the Old South Church; at which place the Inhabitants Met according to Adjournm^t.

After very cool and deliberate Debates upon the distressed Circumstances of the Town, and the present critical Situation of their Affairs, it was unanimously, Voted, that

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. Moderator

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

Joseph Jackson Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

John Hancock Esq.

John Rowe Esq.

Samuel Pemberton Esq.

M^r. Henderson Inches

D^r. Thomas Young

Dr. Joseph Warren
 The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq.
 Mr. Samuel Adams ———
 Dr. Benjamin Church
 Samuel Quincy Esq.
 Mr. Edward Payne
 Cap^t. Daniel Malcomb
 Richard Dana Esq.
 Melatiah Bourn Esq.
 Benjamin Kent Esq.
 The Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq.
 Mr. Josiah Quincy

be & hereby are appointed a Committee to wait on his Excellency the Governor of the Province, with the following Petition —
 Viz^t. ———

[97.] Province of the Massachusetts Bay ———	}	To His Excellency Francis Bernard Esq. Governour and Commander in Chief, in and over said Province and Vice Admiral the same.
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The Inhabitants of the Town of Boston in Town Meeting legally
 Assembled ———
 Humbly Shew

That your Petitioners consider the British Constitution as the Basis of their safety and happiness; By that is established no Man shall be govern'd nor taxed but by himself or Representative legally and fairly chosen; and in which he does not give his own consent. In open violation of these fundamental Rights of Britons, Laws & Taxes are imposed on us to which we have not only not given our consent but against which we have most firmly Remonstrated — Dutiful Petitions have been preferred to our most gracious Sovereign, which (though to the great consternation of the People, we now learn, have been cruelly and insiduously prevented reaching the Royal Presence) we have waited to receive a Gracious answer to, with the greatest attention to the publick peace, untill we find ourselves invaded with an armed force, Siezing, impressing the Persons of our fellow Subjects contrary to express Acts of Parliament. Menaces have been thrown out, fit only for Barbarians which already effect us in the most sensible manner, and threaten us with Famine & Desolation, as all Navigation is obstructed, upon which alone our whole support depends, and the Town is at this Crisis in a Situation nearly such, as if War was formally declared against it. To contend with our Parent State is in our Idea the most shocking and dreadful Extremity; but tamely to relinquish the only security we and our Posterity retain of the enjoyment of our Lives & Properties, without one struggle is so humiliating and base, that we cannot support the Reflection; we apprehend Sir, [98.] That it is at your option, in your power, and we would hope in your inclination, to prevent this distressed and Justly incensed People, from effecting too much, and from the shame and reproach of attempting too little.

As the Board of Customs have thought fit, of their own motion to relinquish the exercise of their Commission here, and as we

cannot but hope, that being convinced of the impropriety and injustice of the appointment of a Board, with such enormous power, and the inevitable destruction which would ensue from the exercise of their office, will never reassume it. We flatter ourselves your Excellency will in tenderness to this People, use the best means in your power, to remove the other grievance, we so Justly complain of, and issue your immediate Order to the Commander of his Majestys Ship Romney, to remove from this Harbour, 'till we shall be ascertained of the Success of our Applications. —

And your Petitioners as in duty bound &

Upon a motion made and seconded, Voted, that

John Rowe Esq.
John Hancock Esq.
D^r. Joseph Warren

be a Committee to wait on his Excellency, to know when he would be pleased to receive the Towns Petition —

The above Committee having Reported, that his Excellency was at his Country Seat; it was Voted, that the Committee to present the Petition of this Town to the Governor be desired to proceed immediately to his Seat at Roxbury in order to present the same —

Upon a Motion made and Seconded, Voted, that

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. Moderator
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Joseph Jackson Esq.
John Ruddock Esq.
John Hancock Esq.

[99.]

John Rowe Esq.
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
M^r. Henderson Inches
D^r. Thomas Young
D^r. Joseph Warren
The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq.
M^r. Samuel Adams
D^r. Benjamin Church
Samuel Quincy Esq.
M^r. Edward Payne
Cap^t. Daniel Malcomb
Richard Dana Esq.
Melatiah Bourn Esq.
Benjamin Kent Esq.
The Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq.
M^r. Josiah Quincy. —

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to draw up a true state of some late Occurrances in this Town to be transmitted M^r. Agent Deberdt.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that

D^r. Joseph Warren
D^r. Benjamin Church
M^r. Samuel Adams

be a Committee to prepare the form of a Vote, to be laid before the Town at the Adjournment; expressing their great dislike at

the manner of procedure in the Custom house Officers in lately carrying off a Vessel from Hancocks Wharff; and their sense of the ill consequences which must follow the methods made use of to introduce an armed force into this Town — to Report at the Adjournment —

A Letter of John Lane Esq. from London, was laid before the Town by John Rowe Esq. which informs that he had delivered the Letters to General Conway & Coll^o. Barry in Person, and asked their [100.] Permission to defrey the Printers Charge for their Pictures, but was politely refused — It was then Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given John Lane Esq. for his trouble and Services in this Matter —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Wednesday next 4. O'Clock. P: M: then to meet at the Old South Church.

Wednesday the 15 of June 1768 — 4. O'Clock. P: M: Met at the Old South Church according to Adjournment —

The Committee appointed to present the Towns Petition to the Governor, acquainted the Town with the manner in which they had been received, and also Reported from his Excellency the following Answer. Viz^t. —

Gentlemen

My Office and station make me a very incompetent Judge of the rights you claim against Acts of Parliament; and therefore it would be to no purpose for me to express my opinion thereupon. All I can say is, that I shall not knowingly infringe any of your Rights and Privileges, but shall religeously maintain all those which are committed to me as a servant of the King. —

In regard to the impressing men for the Service of the King in his Ships of war, it is practised in Great Britain, and all other his Majestys Dominions and therefore I cannot dispute it in this part of them. But I shall use my utmost endeavors to get it regulated so as to avoid all the inconveniences to this Town, which you are apprehensive of; and from the knowledge I have of Cap^t. Comer, I have no doubt of my succeeding therein. —

I cannot pretend to enter into any dispute between you and your Parent State; I desire to be a faithful servant in regard to both; and I shall think myself most highly honoured, if I can be in the lowest degree an Instrument in preserving a perfect [101.] Conciliation between them, I can assure you that if it was as much in power as it is in my will it would always be preserved.

I am obliged by all kinds of duty, by my general Instructions; and by his Majestys special orders to protect aid and assist the Commissioners of the Customs (appointed under the Great Seal of Great Britain in pursuance of an act of parliament) and their Officers in their Persons and Offices. And whether they shall or shall not relinquish the exercise of their commission, I must not fail to give them all the protection aid and assistance in my power If in so doing I shall give offence, I shall be sorry for it, but I shall never regret the doing my duty. —

I have no command over his Majestys Ships, and therefore cannot issue such orders as you desire nor indeed any order to the Commander of his Majestys Ship the Romney. And it would be

highly improper for me to make a requisition to him to remove from this Harbour, when I know he is stationed here by a superior Officer, and cannot remove from hence but by his Orders —

FRA BERNARD —

The Committee at the same time reported the Draft of a Letter to M^r. Agent De Berdt, which was read and unanimously accepted, and the Committee were directed to make any alterations or additions they might think necessary, and to forward the same together with such Affidavits as they should obtain, by the first Vessel —

The Committee appointed to prepare the form of a Vote, relative to the carrying of a Vessel of John Hancock Esq. and an introduction of an armed force into this Town — Reported in the form of Resolves and after considerable debate thereon & the propriety of a Towns passing Resolves, Voted, that

D^r. Joseph Warren
Richard Dana Esq.
D^r. Benjamin Church
John Adams Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
M^r. Henderson Inches
M^r. Edward Payne

[102.]

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to prepare Instructions for our Representatives relative to those and other Matters, and that said form of Resolves be handed into them, for such use to be made of them as they may Judge proper —

Adjourned to Fryday next, 4. O'Clock : P : M : then to Meet at Faneuil Hall

Fryday June 17. 4 O'Clock P : M : Town met according to Adjournment —

The Committee appointed to prepare a Draft of Instructions to the Representatives of this Town in the General Assembly — Reported as follows —

To the Hon^{ble}. James Otis & Thomas Cushing Esq^{rs}. M^r. Samuel Adams, and John Hancock Esq.

After the Repeal of the late American Stamp Act, we were happy in the pleasing prospect of a restoration of that tranquility and unanimity among ourselves, and that harmony & affection between our Parent Country and us, which had generally subsisted before that detestable Act. But with the utmost grief and concern we find that we flatter'd ourselves too soon, and that the root of bitterness is yet alive The principle on which that Act was founded continues in full force, & a Revenue is still demanded from America. —

We have the mortification to observe one Act of Parliament after another, passed for the express purpose of raising a Revenue from us ; to see our money continually collecting from us, without our consent, by an authority in the constitution of which we have no share, and over [103.] Which we have no kind of influence or controul ; to see the little circulating Cash that remained among us for the support of our trade, from time to time transmitted to a distant Country, never to return, or what in our estimation is

worse if possible, appropriated to the maintainance of swarms of Officers and Pensioners in idleness and luxury, whose example has a tendency to corrupt our morals, and whose arbitrary dispositions will trample upon our rights —

Under all these misfortunes and afflictions, however, it is our fixed resolution to maintain our loyalty and duty to our most gracious Sovereign, a reverence and due subordination to the British Parliament as the supreme Legislative in all cases of necessity, for the preservation of the whole Empire, and our cordial and sincere affection for our Parent Country, and to use our utmost endeavors for the preservation of peace & order among ourselves: Waiting with anxious expectation for a favourable answer to the Petitions and solicitations of this Continent for Relief — at the same Time it is our unalterable resolution, at all times to assert and vindicate our dear and invaluable Rights and Libertys, at the utmost hazard of our lives and fortunes; and we have a full and rational confidence, that no design formed against them will ever prosper. —

That such designs have been formed and are still in being we have reason to apprehend. A multitude of Placemen and Pensioners, and an enormous train of Underlings and Dependants, all novel in this Country we have seen already: Their injurious temper, their rash inconsiderate & weak behavior, are well known —

In this situation of affairs several armed Vessels and among the rest his Majesty's Ship of War the Romney, have appeared in our Harbor; and the last as we believe by the express application of the Board of Commissioners with design to over awe and terrify the Inhabitants of this Town into base compliances, and unlimited submission, has been anchored within a Cables length of the Wharves. —

But passing over other irregularities, we are assured, that the last alarming act of that Ship— Viz^t. — the violent and in our opinion illegal seizure of a Vessel lying at a Wharff, the cutting of her forts, & removing [104.] Her with an armed force in hostile manner, under the protection of the Kings Ships, without any probable cause of seizure that we know of, or indeed any cause that has as yet been made known; no Libel or prosecution whatever having yet been instituted against her, was by the express Order or request in writing of the Board of Commissioners to the Commander of that Ship —

In addition to all we are continually alarmed, with rumors & reports of new revinue Acts to be passed, new importations of Officers and Pensioners to suck the life blood of the body politick, while it is streaming from the Veins; fresh arrivals of ships of war to be a still severer restraint upon our trade; and the arrival of a military force to dragoon us into passive obedience; orders and requisitions transmitted to New York, Hallifax and to England, for Regiments and Troops to preserve the public peace. —

Under the distresses arising from this state of things, with the highest confidence in your integrity abilities & fortitude, you will exert yourselves Gentlemen on this occasion, that nothing may be

left undone that may conduce to our relief; and in particular we recommend it to your consideration and discretion in the first place to endeavor that Impresses of all kinds may if possible be prevented. There is an Act of Parliament being which has never been repealed, for the encouragement of the trade to America. We mean the 6 : of Anne Chap. 37. Sect. 9. it is enacted. "That no
 "Marriner or other Person who shall serve on board or be retained
 "to serve on board, any Privateer or trading Ship or Vessel that
 "shall be employed in any part of America, nor any Mariner or
 "other Person being on shore in any part thereof, shall be liable to
 "be impressed or taken away by any Officer or Officers of or be-
 "longing to any of her Majesty's Ships of War, impowered by the
 "Lord High Admiral, or any other Person what soever, unless such
 "Mariner shall have before disserted from such Ship of War be-
 "longing to her Majesty, at any time after the 14. of February
 "1757 upon pain that any Officer or Officers so impressing or
 "causing to be impressed or taken away any Mariner or other
 "Person contrary to the tenor & true meaning of [105.] This
 "Act, shall forfeit to the Master or Owner or Owners of any
 "such Ship or Vessel twenty pounds for every Man he or they
 "shall so impress or take to be recovered with full costs of Suit
 "in any Court within any part of her Majesty's Dominions" so
 that any Impresses of any mariner, from any Vessel whatsoever, appears to be in direct violation of an Act of Parliament

In the next place its our desire that you enquire and use your endeavors to promote a Parliamentary enquiry for the Authors and propagators of such alarming rumors and reports as we have mentioned before; & whether the Commissioners or any other Person whatever have really wrote or solicited for Troops to be sent here from N York Halifax England or elsewhere, and for what end; and that you forward if you think it expedient, in the House of Representatives resolutions that every such Person, who shall solicit or promote the importation of Troops at this time, is an Enemy to this Town and Province, and a disturber of the peace and good order of both. —

The above Report having been read and considered, the Question was put — "Whether the same shall be accepted" — Passed in the Affermative unanimously —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for despatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[106.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 12th. Day of September A : D : 1768 —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. D^r. Cooper —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this

Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island Governments.

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants to the Selectmen for calling this Meeting - - - - - read. —

Whereas it hath been Reported in this Town Meeting that his Excellency the Governor has intimated his apprehensions, that One or more Regiments of his Majestys Troops are dayly to be expected here.

Voted, That the Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq.

Richard Dana Esq.

M^r. Samuel Adams

D^r Joseph Warren

John Rowe Esq.

John Hancock Esq.

Benjamin Kent Esq.

be a Committee to wait upon his Excellency if in Town, humbly requesting that he would be pleased to communicate to the Town the grounds and Assurances he may have thereof —

A Vote of the Hon^{ble}. Board respecting a Tar Barrel, which was the other Night placed in the Skillet on Beacon Hill, by Persons unknown [107.] Was communicated to the Town but not acted upon —

Voted, that the following Petition be presented his Excellency the Governor —

•To His Excellency Francis Bernard Esq. Governor and Commander in Chief of His Majestys Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England —

May it please your Excellency

The Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally Assembled taking into Consideration the critical state of the publick Affairs, more especially the present precarious situation of our invaluable Rights & Privileges Civil and Religeous, most humbly request that your Excellency would be pleased forthwith to issue Precepts for a General Assembly to be Convened with the utmost speed, in order that such measures may be taken as in their wisdom they may think proper for the preservation of our said Rights and Privileges —

And your Petitioners as in duty bound &c.

Voted, that the Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq.

Richard Dana Esq.

M^r. Samuel Adams

D^r. Joseph Warren

John Rowe Esq.

John Hancock Esq.

Benjamin Kent Esq.

be a Committee to present the within Petition and to request of his Excellency, that he would be pleased to favor the Town with an immediate answer. —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator

M^r. Samuel Adams

[108.]

John Ruddock Esq.
 The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq.
 John Hancock Esq.
 Richard Dana Esq.
 John Rowe Esq.
 Samuel Quincy Esq.
 D^r. Joseph Warren
 M^r. William Mullineux
 M^r. John Bradford
 Cap^t. Daniel Malcomb
 M^r. William Greanleaff
 Cap^t. Adino Paddock
 M^r. Thomas Boylston
 Arnold Wells Esq.

be a Committee to take the state of our publick Affairs into Consideration, and Report at the Adjournment the Measures they apprehend most salutary to be taken in the present emergency —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned unto the next Day. 10. O'Clock. A : M : —

Tuesday the 13 of September 10. O'Clock. A : M : Town Met according to Adjournment —

The Committee appointed Yesterday to wait upon his Excellency with the Petition by request of the Town Reported from his Excellency the following answer in writing —

Gentlemen

My apprehensions that some of his Majestys Troops are to be expected in Boston, arise from information of a private nature ; I have received no publick Letters notifying to me the coming of such Troops, and requiring Quarters for them ; whenever I do [109.] I shall communicate them to his Majestys Council. The Business of calling another Assembly for this Year is now before the King ; and I can do nothing in it, untill I receive his Majestys Commands. —

FRANCIS BERNARD.

The Committee appointed to take the state of our public Affairs into Consideration, Reported the following Declaration and Resolves —

Whereas it is the first Principle in Civil Society, founded in Nature and Reason, that no Law of the Society can be binding on any Individuals, without his Consent, given by himself in Person, or by his Representative of his own free Election : And whereas in and by an Act of the British Parliament passed in the First Year of the Reign of King William and Queen Mary, of glorious and blessed Memory, entitled an Act declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and Settling the Succession of the Crown ; the Preamble of which Act is in these words -- viz^t. " Whereas the late King James the Second, by the assistance of diverse evil Councilors, Judges and Ministers employed by him, did endeavor to subvert & exterpate the Protestant Religeon, and the Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom " It is expressly among other Things declared, That the levying Money for the use of the Crown, by Pretence of Prerogative, without Grant of Parliament for a longer Time or in

other manner than the same is granted, is illegal. *And whereas* in the Third Year of the Reign of the same King William & Queen Mary, their Majestys were graciously pleased, by their Royal Charter to give and grant to the Inhabitants of His Majestys Province, all the Territory therein discribed, to be holden in free and common Soccage: And also to Ordain & Grant to the said Inhabitants certain Rights, Liberties and Privileges therein expressly mentioned; among which it is Granted established and Ordained, that all and every the Subjects of them their Heirs & Successors, which shall go to Inhabit within said Province and Territory, and every of their Children which shall happen to be born there, or on the Seas in going thither, or returning from thence, shall have & enjoy all Libertes and Immunities of free and natural Subjects, within any of the Dominions of them, their Heirs and Successors, to all intents [110.] Purposes and Constructions whatever, as if they and every of them, were born within the Realm of England:

And whereas by the aforesaid Act of Parliament made in the first Year of the said King William and Queen Mary, all and singular the Premisses contained therein, are claimed demanded & Insisted on as the undoubted Rights & Liberties of the Subjects born within the Realm:

And whereas the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of this Town the Metropolis of the Province in said Charter mentioned, do hold all the Rights & Liberties therein contained to be sacred & inviolable At the same Time publicly and solemnly acknowledging their firm and unshaken Allegiance to their alone and rightful Sovereign King George the Third, the lawful Successor of the said King William and Queen Mary to the British Throne —

Resolved That the said Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, will at the utmost peril of their Lives & Fortunes take all legal and constitutional measures to defend and maintain the Person Family, Crown and Dignity of our said Sovereign Lord George the Third; and all and singular the Rights, Liberties, Privileges & Immunities granted in the said Royal Charter, as well as those which are declared to be belonging to us as British Subjects by Birth right, as all others therein specially mentioned. —

And whereas by the said Royal Charter it is specially granted to the Great & General Court or Assembly therein constituted, to impose and levy proportionable and reasonable Assessments, Rates & Taxes upon the Estates and Persons of all and every the Proprietors & Inhabitants of said Province or Territory, for the Service of the King in the necessary defence and support of his Government of this Province, & the protection and preservation of his Subjects therein, therefore

Voted, as the Opinion of this Town; that the levying Money within this Province for the use and service of the Crown, in other manner than the same is granted by the Great & General Court or Assembly of this Province is in violation of the said Royal Charter; and the same is also in violation [111.] Of the undoubted natural Rights of Subjects, declared in the aforesaid Act of Parliament, freely to give and grant their own Money for the

service of the Crown, with their own consent, in Person, or by Representatives of their own free Election —

And whereas in the aforesaid Act of Parliament it is declared That the raising or keeping a standing Army, within the Kingdom in time of peace, unless it be with the consent of Parliament, is against Law; It is the Opinion of this Town; that the said Declaration is founded in the indefeasible Right of the Subjects to be *consulted*; and to give their *free Consent in Person*, or by Representatives of their own free Election to the raising & keeping a standing Army among them; and the Inhabitants of this Town being free Subjects, have the same Right derived from Nature & confirmed by the British Constitution, as well as the said Royal Charter; and therefore the raising or keeping a standing Army, without their consent in Person or by Representatives of their own free Election, would be an infringement of their natural, constitutional and Charter Rights; and the employing such Army for the enforcing of Laws made without the consent of the People, in Person, or by their Representatives would be a Grievance. —

The foregoing Report being diverse Times distinctly Read, & considered by the Town — The Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted & recorded; — and passed unanimously in the Affermative —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, the following Votes was unanimously passed — *Viz*. —

Whereas by an Act of Parliament of the First of King William and Queen Mary, it is declared; that for the Redress of all Grievances, and for Amending Strengthning, and preserving the Laws, Parliaments ought to be held frequently, and in as much as it is the Opinion of this Town, that the People labour under many intollerable Grievances, which unless speedily Redressed; threaten the total distruction of our invaluable natural, constitutional and Charter Rights.

And furthermore As his Excellency the Governor has declared [112.] Himself unable at the Request of this Town to call a General Court, which is the Assembly of the States of this Province, for the Redress of such Grievances;

Voted, that this Town will now make choice of a suitable number of Persons to Act for them as a Committee in Convention, with such as may be sent to Join them from the several Towns in this Province, in order that such Measures may be consulted and Advised as his Majestys service, and the peace and safety of his Subjects in this Province may require — whereupon

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq.
The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq.
Mr. Samuel Adams — &
John Hancock Esq.

were appointed a Committee for the said purpose — The Town hereafter to take into Consideration what recompence shall be made them for the service they may perform —

Voted, that the Selectmen be directed to write to the Selectmen of the several Towns within this Province informing them of the foregoing Vote, and to propose that a Convention be held, if

they shall think proper at Faneuil Hall, in this Town, on Tuesday the 22^d. Day of September Instant, at 10. O'Clock Before Noon.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, the following Vote was passed by a very great Majority — Viz'. —

Whereas, by an Act of Parliament of the First of King William and Queen Mary it is declared that the Subjects being Protestants, may have Arms for their Defence; It is the Opinion of this Town, that the said Declaration is founded in Nature Reason and sound Policy, and is well adapted for the necessary defence of the Community —

And for as much as by a good and wholesome Law of this Province, every listed Soldier, and other Householder (except [113.] Troopers who by Law are to be otherwise provided) shall be always provided with a well fixed Fire Lock Musket Accoutrement and Ammunition as in said Law particularly mentioned, to the satisfaction of the Commission Officers of the Company; and as there is at this Time a prevailing apprehension, in the Minds of many, of an approaching War with France: In order that the Inhabitants of this Town may be prepared in case of sudden danger; Voted, that those of the said Inhabitants who may at present be unprovided, be and hereby are requested duly to observe the said Law at this Time —

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq. communicated to the Town a Letter lately received from a Committee of Merchants in the City of New York, acquainting him with their Agreement relative to a Non Importation of British Goods — Whereupon the Town by a Vote expressed their high satisfaction therein —

The Town taking into serious consideration the present Aspect of their publick Affairs, and being of Opinion that it greatly behooves a People professing godliness to Address the Supreme Ruler of the World, on all important Occasions, for that Wisdom which is profitable to direct —

Voted, unanimously, That the Selectmen be a Committee to wait upon the several Ministers of the Gospel within this Town, desiring that the next Tuesday may be set apart as a Day of Fasting and Prayer —

Ordered, that the Votes & proceedings of the Town in their present Meeting, be published in the several News Papers; and also that a Number of Copys be struck off & sent to the several Towns in this Province p Expresses —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator.

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[114.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Fryday the 27 Day of January 1769 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read.

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving

Bills of Credit of the Connecticut, New Hampshire & Rhode Island Governments.

The Article in the Warrant Viz'. — "To make choice of a Collector of Taxes in the room of M^r. Edward Hollyday, he not having given Bond with sufficient Sureties, to the satisfaction of the Selectmen for the faithful discharge of his Duty in said Trust agreeable to the Vote of the Town" — was read and after much debate, it appeared that a new Collector, could not then be properly chose; M^r. Hollyday having accepted, and been sworn to the faithful discharge of his trust as a Collector of Taxes, and at this Meeting offering sufficient Sureties which he was not able to do before — whereupon —

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Gentlemen the Selectmen for their faithfulness and attention to the Interest of the Town in requiring sufficient Sureties from M^r. Hollyday for the faithful discharge of the Duty of a Collector as enjoyn'd upon them in the Vote of the Town the fourteenth of March last —

Whereas, M^r. Edward Hollyday has informed the [115.] Town, that since the calling of the Meeting, he has been able to procure Sureties for the faithful discharge of the Duty of a Collector of Taxes, which he believes will be to the satisfaction of the Selectmen therefore —

Voted, that this Matter be referred to the Selectmen to act thereon as they shall Judge agreeable to the Vote of the Town respecting Collectors —

Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Honourable James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting, for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Monday the 13th. Day of March Anno Domini 1769 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read.

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. M^r. Bowen —

Sundry Laws enjoyn'd to be read at this Meeting were accordingly read —

[116.] The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut New Hampshire and Rhode Island as required by an Act of this Province.

William Cooper was chosen Town Clerk for the Year ensuing and having taken the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Connecticut and other Governments, took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty, which Oaths were administred to him by M^r. Justice Dana. —

The Town proceeded to the choice of Seven Selectmen, and the Votes being brought in and sorted it appeared that

Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Joseph Jackson Esq.
John Ruddock Esq.
John Hancock Esq.
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
M^r. Henderson Inches
M^r. Jonathan Mason

were chose Selectmen for the Year ensuing —

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Overseers of the Poor, and upon sorting them it appeared that

John Barrett Esq.
The Hon^{ble}. Royal Tyler Esq.
M^r. Benjamin Dolbear
M^r. William Whitwell
M^r. William Greanleaff
William White Esq.
M^r. Joseph Waldo
John Leaveret Esq.
John Gore Esq.

[117.] Cap^t. Samuel Partridge

Thomas Tyler Esq.

Cap^t. Thomas Bradford - - excused. see

were chose Overseers of the Poor for the Year ensuing.

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Wardens and upon sorting them it appeared that —

Mess ^{rs} . Daniel Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	excused
Joseph Belknap	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Thomas Hand: Peck	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
John Ballard	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
William Mackay	-	-	-	-	-	Sworn
Samuel May	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
William Powell	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Joseph Turell	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Thomas Walley	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .
Jonathan Snelling	-	-	-	-	-	excused
Benjamin Gooding	-	-	-	-	-	Sworn
Henry Hill	-	-	-	-	-	d ^o .

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing —

The Town brought in their Votes for Sixteen Fire-Wards and upon sorting them it appeared that —

John Scollay Esq.
Newman Grenough Esq.
John Rowe Esq.
M^r. William Cooper
M^r. John Mico Wendell
Thomas Marshall Esq.
William Homes Esq.
M^r. Joseph Tyler
Cap^t. Adino Paddock
M^r. James Richardson

[118.] Cap^t. Benjamin Waldo
 John Hancock Esq.
 M^r. Samuel Adams
 Thomas Daws Esq.
 M^r. Alexander Hill

were chose Fire-Wards for the Year ensuing —

The Town brought in their Votes for a Town Treasurer and upon sorting them it appeared that M^r. David Jeffries was chosen & having taken the Oath respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments took the Oath of Office for the faithful discharge of his Duty, which Oaths were Administred to him by M^r. Justice —

Votes for a County Treasurer brought in and sealed up in Town Meeting, and delivered to the care of Constable Lindsey George Wallace to be returned to the Court of Session —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — the Question was put — Whether Constables and Collectors of Taxes shall be chose separate — Passed in the Affermative —

Voted, that the Sum of Five Pounds be Remitted out of the Ten Pound Fine to such Persons as shall be chose into the Office of Constable for the Year ensuing, and shall decline serving.

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Constables the Persons chose into that Office and sworn are

Mess^{rs}. Augustus Hail
 Francis Salmon
 John Wells
 Peter Barbour
 Lyd: George Wallace
 Josiah Fessenden

[119.] Stephen Symms
 Hezekiah Usher
 Benjamin Adams
 John Arnold
 George Thomas
 John Peirce

The Town brought in their Votes for Twelve Clerks of the Market and upon sorting them it appeared that

Mess^{rs}. Fitch Pool
 Samuel Barrett excused
 John Singleton Copley
 Francis Green
 George Spooner
 Benjamin Andrews
 Elisha Hutchinson d^o.
 John Bernard
 Joseph Barrell
 Samuel Allen Otis
 Jonathan Clark d^o.
 Bossinger Foster —

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing — see

Voted, that the Sum of Twelve Pence on the Pound be and hereby is allowed to such Persons as shall be chose Collectors of

Taxes for the Year ensuing for all such Sums as they shall Collect; provided they pay into the several Treasuries the whole Sum committed to them to Collect on or before the 10th. Day of August 1770. Eight Pence on the Pound on all such other Sums, as they shall have so paid into said Treasurers on or before the 20th. Day of December 1770 and Four Pence on the Pound upon the remainder of the Sums they shall be obliged to Collect provided such remainder of the Sums they shall be obliged to Collect provided such remainder shall be fully paid in on or before the Second Monday in March 1771. This Premium as above [120.] Expressed appears to be Just and equitable, and an ample allowance to the Collectors to encourage them to discharge their Duty with diligence and fidelity; provided also that each of said Collectors give Bond with sufficient Sureties, to the Selectmen, as shall be satisfactory for the faithful discharge of their Duty in said Office, and complying with this Vote —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Four Collectors of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared, that

Mess^{rs}. Sampson Salter
Edward Hollyday
Samuel Ruggles
Abraham Savage

were chose Collectors of Taxes for the ensuing Year —

The Town by a Vote Assigned. 4 O'Clock P: M: for the Consideration of M^r. Samuel Adams's Petition —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for Seven Assessors, and upon sorting them it appeared that

M^r. William Fairfield
M^r. John Kneeland
M^r. Benjamin Church
Belcher Noyes Esq.
M^r. Daniel Pecker
M^r. Jonathan Brown
Moses Deshon Esq.

were chose Assessors for the Year ensuing —

M^r. John Gray

was chosen Surveyor of Hemp for the Year ensuing.

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that [121.] The Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to John Rowe Esq. for his Services as a Selectman in Years past —

Mess^{rs}. William Nichols
Andrew Symms
Clement Collins
Henry Allin
Isaac Vergoose
John Grenough
Jacob Thayer
Joseph Edmunds
John Skillins
John Sergeant
Richard Walker
John Champny

Samuel Turner
 John Bullfinch
 Abraham Howard
 Joseph Butler

were chose Surveyors of Boards and Shingles for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Samuel Dyer
 John Dyer
 Obediah Low
 John Joy
 William Crafts

were chose Fence Viewers for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Nathaniel Gardner
 Samuel Whitwell

were chose Informers of Deer for the Year ensuing —

M^r. Joseph Eyres

was chosen a Surveyor of Boards for the Year ensuing —

[122.] Mess^{rs}. Samuel Bangs
 Benjamin Cooper
 David Loring
 Cornelius Thayer
 Thomas Noland

were chose Sealers of Leather for the Year ensuing.

Mess^{rs}. Peter Cotta
 Manesseh Masters
 Joseph Dyer
 John Harskins
 David Spear
 Jonathan Jenkins
 Robert Breck Jun^r.
 Job Wheelwright
 Joshua Pico
 Benjamin Salt
 Paul Baxter
 John Owen
 Thomas Knox
 Samuel White
 Edward Cowell
 Edward Potter
 Peter Ellis
 Timothy Pease
 Nathaniel Waterman
 Jacob Williams
 Samuel Bernard
 John Nowell
 Joseph Phillips
 Henry Lucas

were chose Cullers of Staves for the Year ensuing.

[123.] Mess^{rs}. David Simms
 Thomas Curtis

were chose Hogreeves for the Year ensuing —

M^r. Edward Curtis

was chose Hayward for the Year ensuing - - - - -

Upon a Motion made and seconded it was Voted, that one Scavenger be chosen out of every Ward.

Mess ^{rs} . Nathaniel Barker - - -	Ward N.	1.
After Stoddard - - -	- - -	2
Benjamin Page - - -	- - -	3
Joseph Hart - - -	- - -	4
Nicholas Gray - - -	- - -	5
Stephen Bruce - - -	- - -	6
Benjamin Goldthwait - - -	- - -	7
Timothy White - - -	- - -	8
Nathaniel Hurd - - -	- - -	9
Oliver Wiswell - - -	- - -	10
John Martin - - -	- - -	11
Thomas Chase - - -	- - -	12

were chose Scavengers for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that M^r. John Pitts
 Nicholas Boylston Esq.
 M^r. Thomas Gray
 Isaac Smyth Esq.
 M^r. Samuel Allin Otis

be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Audit the Acccompts of M^r. Treasurer Jeffries, and also the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor; and the said Committee are enjoined to inspect every particular Account of the Moneys Expended for the use of the Almshouse; they are also impowered when they shall Audit said Acccompts to allow such of the Overseers [124.] As shall advance Moneys for the Relief of the Poor; Interest on all such Sums from the Time so advanced, till they shall have Audited said Acccompts —

The Selectmen

were chose Surveyers of the High Ways for the Year ensuing —

Coll^o. Joseph Jackson
 Nicholas Boylston Esq.
 William Homes Esq.

were chose Purchasers of Grain for the Year ensuing, and they are desired and impowered to give all needful directions to the Keeper of the Granary respecting the Quantity of Grain to be sold, and affixing the price thereof from Time to Time as Occasion shall require —

John Tudor Esq.
 M^r. John Lucas

were chose Surveyers of Wheat for the Year ensuing —

Cap^t. Martin Gay
 M^r. John Skinner

were chose Assay-Masters for the Year ensuing —

Adjourned to 3. O'Clock P: M:

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment —

Voted, that the Assessors be and hereby are impowered and directed, to set for Abatement of such Taxes as they shall Judge reasonable on every Thursday till the Second Thursday in April inclusive, and no longer, saving that they be allowed to set the two last Weeks in November [125.] For the Abatements of the Taxes

of such Persons as had not an Opportunity of applying on the above limited Time, by reason of their being out of the Province; at which Time they are also allowed and impowered to Abate the Taxes of such Persons as may have died Insolvent between the said last Thursday in April, and the last Day of November —

Voted, that the Selectmen be desired to enforce the Duty of Scavengers, upon such as have been chose; and if they should find any defects in the Laws relating to those Officers, that they Report the same to the Town that they may act thereon as they may Judge convenient —

The Petition of Mess^{rs}. Samuel Holbrook and Joseph Ward and James Carter each praying to be appointed Master of the South Writing School in the room of the late M^r. Abiah Holbrook deceased — were read — whereupon —

Voted, that the choice of a School master for the South Writing School be referred over to the Gentlemen the Selectmen, to act thereon as they may Judge for the Interest of the Town —

Voted, that the consideration of School Masters Salaries and all other Salaries and Grants be referred over to next May Meeting —

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is impowered and directed to borrow upon Interest the Sum of Four hundred Pounds, for the use of the Overseers of the Poor, to purchase Grain &c. for the Alms-house.

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants “ that another Writing School House may be Erected in some convenient place at the South End at the Charge of the Town, and a Master appointed for the same ” — was read. — whereupon — Voted, that the Consideration be referred over to next March Meeting; & the Selectmen are desired to insert the Prayer thereof in [126.] The Notification for said Meeting —

The Selectmen Reported on the Accompt of M^r. Benjamin Fenno Keeper of the Granary for the Year past which Accompts as entred in his Books (and on file in the Town Clerks Office) was read — whereupon it was Voted, that the same be accepted; and that M^r. Fenno be accountable to the Town for 105 Bushels of Rye & 82 Bushels of Indian Corn amounting to £27., 3., 3. and also for the Sum of £225., 14/- $\frac{1}{4}$ Cash now in his hands exclusive of the Sum of £32., 13., 4 for his Salary and attendance as charged in his Account which is hereby allowed him —

The Petition of M^r. Samuel Adams a late Collector of Taxes setting forth “ That he has exhibited a List of his outstanding Taxes to the Selectmen to be laid before the Town; and also a state of his Accompts praying that upon his paying the Balance thereof, the Town would order him a final discharge; and at the same Meeting made choice of a suitable Person to receive said List, and Collect the said Outstanding Taxes or otherwise to act upon his Petition as to the Town shall seem meet ” was again read according to order, & after a full and long debate had thereon; it was moved & the Question accordingly put — That a Committee be appointed to take M^r. Adams's Petition into Consideration, and Report as soon as may be; which passed in the Negative — Also

moved that the List of Outstanding Taxes exhibited by said M^r. Adams to the Selectmen be read in this Meeting; which Question being put — Passed in the Negative — Then a Motion was made and seconded, that the Prayer of the Petition be granted, and that a Person be now chosen to receive the said List, and Collect the Outstanding Taxes, and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Affermative by a very great majority —

The Town then by a full Vote made choice of M^r. Robert [127.] Peirpoint to receive the aforesaid List and Collect the Outstanding Taxes. —

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to Petition the General Court at the next Session thereof praying for a conformation of the choice now made of M^r. Robert Peirpoint, and that he may be impowered to Collect all such Taxes as have been at any time committed to the said M^r. Samuel Adams to Collect and now remains Outstanding; the said Peirpoint to be accountable to the Town for such Sums as he shall Collect

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “ To Consider what Measures may be proper to be taken for the preservation of the Common and preventing any Incumbrances being laid thereon ” was read — whereupon Voted that the Selectmen be a Committee to take this matter into Consideration; to enquire into the Title of the Lands, and make Report as soon as may be, what may be proper to be done thereon —

The Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “ Whether the Town will take any steps in addition to what has been already done by the Selectmen for vindicating the Character of the Inhabitants, & obtaining the knowledge of such Representations as may have been made to their prejudice ” — was read — whereupon the Selectmen being requested Reported to the Town, “ That besides the several Addresses to his Excellency the Governor, which had been published in all the News Papers, they had wrote Letters to diverse Gentlemen of Character in London of the same import, praying their kind interposition in favor of the Town as occasion might require. It was then desired that a Copy of one of the Letters aforesaid be read to the Town, and the Letter sent to Dennis Deberdts Esq. was read accordingly —

A Motion was then made that the Thanks of the Town be given to the Selectmen for the care they have taken for the support and [128.] Vindication of its Interest and Character, and in making a true & faithful Representation of the Conduct and state of the Town to Dennis Deberdt Esq. and other Gentlemen in London, and the Question being put — Passed unanimously in the Affermative —

It was then Voted, that

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. Moderator
 M^r. Samuel Adams
 The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq.
 Richard Dana Esq.
 D^r. Joseph Warren
 John Adams Esq.
 Samuel Quincy Esq.

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to consider what may be still necessary to be done for vindication of the Town, in addition to the Measures already taken by the Selectmen, and to Report as soon as may be —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “To consider whether the Town will come into any Measures for supporting M^r. Peirpoint in his prosecuting those Persons who have lately tres-passed upon the Lands which have been Rented to him by the Town for many Years past; and also for preventing like Trespasses upon other of the Towns Lands,” was read — whereupon Voted, that —

John Ruddock Esq.
John Hancock Esq.
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
Samuel Pemberton Esq.
M^r. Jonathan Mason

be a Committee to take this matter into Consideration and Report at the Adjournment —

The Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “To Consider Whether [129.] A Committee shall be appointed to revise the By-Laws of the Town” was read — whereupon Voted, that

Richard Dana Esq.
John Adams Esq.
Josiah Quincy Esq.

be a Committee to revise said Laws and Report as soon as may be

That Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) To Consider whether the Town will Lease the Land upon which the Gun House has been Erected, for a certain number of Years, to the Officers of the Train of Artillery, belonging to the Regiment of the Town of Boston” was read — whereupon — the Question was put — Whether the Town will Lease the Lands — Passed in the Negative —

That Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “To Consider what steps can be taken to give a check to the progress of Vice and Immoralities in this Town, and to promote a Reformation of Manners” was read whereupon

Voted, that
John Ruddock Esq.
M^r. Moses Gill
M^r. David Jeffries
William Phillips Esq.
Ebenezer Storer.

be a Committee to take this Matter into Consideration and Report at the Adjournment —

The Article in the Warrant Viz^t. — “To Consider of some Suitable Methods employing the Poor of the Town, whose Numbers and distresses are dayly increasing by the loss of its Trade & Commerce” — was read — whereupon Voted, that

M^r. William Mullineux
M^r. Jonathan Mason
John Barrett Esq.
Thomas Cushing Esq.
M^r. William Cooper
M^r. William Whitwell
M^r. Thomas Brattle

[130.]

be a Committee to take this Matter into Consideration and Report at the Adjournment —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and hereby is impowered to give his Negotiable Notes on Interest to the Administrators or Executors of the deceased School Masters, for the Balances respectively due to the said deceased Masters —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Tuesday the 4 Day of April next, 3 O'Clock P: M:

Tuesday the 4: Day of April 3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment —

The Committee to Consider what may be still necessary to be done in vindication of the Town, in addition to the Measures already taken by the Selectmen — Reported the Draft of a Petition and Address to his Majesty — which being distinctly read & duly Considered

Voted, unanimously that the same be accepted, and that a fair Draft thereof signed by the Moderator of this Meeting be transmitted to the Hon^{ble}. Isaac Barree Esq. with the desire of the Town that he would be pleased to present the same as soon as it shall reach his Hands —

The Committee Appointed to Consider the steps proper to be taken to check the progress of Vice and Immoralities, and [131.] Promote a Reformation of Manners — Report — That it appears to the Committee that for some Time past Vice and Immoralities have been very prevalent in this Town, and seem to be greatly increasing more especially Idleness, Drunkenness, profane Cursing & Swearing, Sabbath breaking &c. to the great Grief of the more sober part of the Inhabitants — While the Committee observe with Concern the prevalence of these Vices, they at the same Time reflect with pleasure on the good and wholesome Laws of the Province against these & other Immoralities.

The Committee are therefore humbly of Opinion that in order to prevent the growth of Vice, it be earnestly recommended to the Inhabitants of the Town in general, to keep their Children Servants and young Persons under their care under proper restraint; and to the Magistrates and Officers of the Town in particular to exert their utmost endeavors to put the Laws of the Province against these and other Disorders in execution —

The Committee are further of Opinion that to prevent the increase of Idleness, which is the Parent of all Vices some effectual method to employ the many poor who are now Objects of Charity, would be the most likely means to prevent the further spread of Vice and Immorality, and promote the Reformation of Manners so Justly desired —

JOHN RUDDOCK p Order.

The above Report having been read and Considered — the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative —

The Committee relative to the Tresspasses upon the Towns Land asked leave to Report thereon at the Town Meeting in May next which was accordingly granted them —

The Committee appointed to Consider of some suitable Methods for employing the Poor of the Town whose Numbers and distresses are daily encreasing by the loss of its Trade & Commerce Report — That they have conversed with some of the Overseers of [132.] The Poor, and find by their Accounts that there are almost 230 Persons in the Almshouse, and about 40 in the Work-house who are proper Subjects of the Almshouse, that the Overseers in the Year 1767. paid away to People out of that House towards their support and Relief not less than Six hundred pounds, and the last Year not less than £620 ,, — and that they apprehend from the great decay of Trade, and the consequent want of employ that the Expences of the present Year for the relief of the People out of the House, will be much larger, and must of necessity annually increase; That the only way to lessen this Expence or prevent its increase is to pitch upon some way of employing those who occasion it. And your Committee find that since the Town have had in contemplation some method for this purpose; that there above two hundred of the Poor of the Town who are now ready, and are desirous of being employed in Spinning and Carding and that their Numbers are dayly increasing. —

Your Committee are therefore of Opinion, that it would answer a very valuable purpose if a number of Schools were set up at different parts of the Town and a suitable number of School Mistresses were procured and employed to learn such Children to Spin (free of Charge) as the Overseers shall from time to time Certifie are proper Objects of such Charity. That for this purpose a number of suitable Rooms be hired and School Mistresses procured, and a number of Spinning Wheels, and a quantity of Wool purchased for the immediate employment of such Children, which Wool when once converted into Yarn might be readily disposed of to several Persons lately arrived from abroad, and who have been brought up and are Master Workmen in the Manufacturing of Shalloons Durants. Camblitts Callamancos Duroys and Legathies and in general Mens Summer Ware, and who we understand are determined to carry on said Business as soon as they can be furnished with a sufficient number of Spinners to keep their Looms employed —

Your Committee are fully convinced that the execution of the Plan aforementioned would be of unspeakable Advantage to the [133.] Town, as it would in a few Years save a considerable part of the Expence that arises from the Relief afforded to People out of the House; it would annually lessen the number of those who are esteemed proper Subjects of the Almshouse; It would keep great numbers out of Idleness which as its the Parent of Vice so it promotes intemperance and all the Deceases that are naturally produced by such a course of Life; and moreover it will at the same Time have a happy tendency to habituate the People to Industry, & preserve their Morals who instead of their continuing a burden to Society will become some of its most useful Members — The Committee at the same time are not insensible that the carrying it into execution will be attended with a great Expence, and have been apprehensive that it would be difficult to prevail with any

number of Gentlemen to execute a trust that would be attended with much trouble, yet they have reason to think that in case the Town would Order and Impower the Treasurer to borrow & furnish the Overseers with the small Sum of Five hundred Pounds, they to be impowered to improve it for the relief of the Poor out of the House, by employing them in the Method aforesaid, a responsible Gentleman might be prevailed upon, the Overseers granting him Two hundred Pounds and lending him the remaining Three hundred Pounds (for which he would give his Bond payable in two Years) would on consideration of said Grant and Loan enter into an Obligation at his own charge to hire a suitable number of Rooms for Schools, and hire a number of School Mistresses to teach as many Persons to spin as are desirous to learn, and would at his own cost engage to furnish them with spinning Wheels, and with a sufficient quantity of Wool to keep them employed till they were thoroughly acquainted with the Business, and would further engage after they were commenced good Spinners to keep them employed at said Business for the space of two Years provided they will work upon reasonable terms, by which Time it is highly probable the Business will be so well established as to find them full Employ — Your Committee are also of Opinion that the Gentlemen we hope may be prevailed upon to carry the important employment of the Poor of the Town into Execution has in view the public good, and upon mature deliberation we apprehend that there is not any probability of his advantaging [134.] Himself thereby, but on the contrary the Town will Annually save a Sum much larger than the Two Hundred Pounds, to be granted him for undertaking this Business — All which is humbly submitted

The above Report read and accepted, & Voted, That for preventing the increase of the Enormous Charge and Expence of supporting the Poor of the Town, and for the lessening the same if possible The Town Treasurer for the Town being he and he hereby is directed and impowered to borrow in behalf of the Town the Sum of Five hundred Pounds of lawful Money, and put it into the hands of the Overseers of the Poor who are hereby impowered to improve it for the relief of the Poor of this Town in the following manner that is to say, to employ them in Carding and Spinning of Wool according to the spirit & intention of the Report aforesaid, and that Two hundred Pounds of the said Five hundred Pounds be given to M^r. William Mullineux to enable him to purchase Spinning Wheels, Cards, and to procure convenient places and Appartments for carrying on the Spinning Business. and a sufficient number of Spinning Mistresses well skilled and experienced in the Art and Mystery of spinning Wool into good Yarn he the said William Mullineux giving Bond to the Town for his finding a sufficient number of good Spinning Wheels and Cards, and having a sufficient number of Rooms or Appartments for teaching Learners in the Business afores^d. and a sufficient Number of Persons thoroughly skilled in the said Business to teach and instruct such as are or shall be desirous to learn it, & for supplying them with sufficient Quantities of Wool fit for the purpose afore-

said while learning, all at the proper Cost & Charge of the said William Mullineux. And that the remaining Sum of Three hundred Pounds be lent to him the said William Mullineux for the space of two Years to enable him to purchase a sufficient Quantity of Wool to keep said Spinners constantly employed upon reasonable terms, he to give Bond to the Town that he will keep said Spinners employed and pay them for the work at a reasonable rate for the term of two Years, and at the expiration of said term will pay the said [135.] Three hundred Pounds unto the Town Treasurer for the Time being for the use of the Town —

Mess^{rs}. Samuel Calf
 John Gore
 George Green

were chose Clerks of the Market for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that the Selectmen be and hereby are directed and im-
 powered to take effectual care to see the Common is inclosed, and
 kept Inclosed and also to bring such Actions as they may think
 necessary to prevent or remove any Incumbrances upon the Towns
 Land, and for obtaining damages for the same —

The Town brought in their Votes for One Overseer of the Poor
 in the room of Cap^t. John Bradford who has resigned and upon
 sorting them it appeared that —

Mr. Samuel Whitwell

was chosen an Overseer for the Year ensuing —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Thanks of
 the Town be and hereby are given to Cap^t. John Bradford for his
 good services as an Overseer the Year past —

Voted, that all Matters and Things which shall remain unfinished
 at this Meeting be referred over to the General Town Meeting in
 May next to be then Considered of and acted upon —

The Town brought in their Votes for Five Wardens, and upon
 sorting them it appeared that

Mess^{rs}. John Joy
 Benjamin Harrod
 Thomas Hitchburne
 James Perkins
 Thomas Sherburne

[136.]

were chose Wardens for the Year ensuing —

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby
 are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this
 Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the
 Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town
 Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Fryday the 5 Day of May
 Anno Domini 1769 —

Prayer was made by the Rev^d. Mr. Lothrop.

The Precept & Warrant for calling the Meeting - - read ---
 Sundry Laws - - - - - read —

Upon a Motion made and Seconded

[137.] Voted, That this Town before they proceed upon the Business make and Order to be Entred upon their Records, the follow declaration of their Right to the freedom of Election —Viz^t. —

The Selectmen having acquainted the Town that they had waited on General Mackay Commander of Majestys Forces Quarter'd here to inform him that the choice of Persons to Represent the Town in the General Assembly was coming on, and to Claim in behalf of the Town the full Right of British Subjects & Freeholders upon so important an Occasion founded in the Principles of the Constitution — The Selectmen having also acquainted the Town that the General had declared it was not in his power to march the Troops out of this Town upon this Occasion, or any further to comply with their Claim, than by confining them to their Barracks which he engaged. The Town tho they receive this answer as a Concession of the Rectitude of the Claim, yet as the Measure of confining the Troops to their Barracks and not removing them out of Town is by no means adequate to the extent of their Constitutional Right, they cannot proceed to an Election without declaring their clear and full sense, that the Residences of Armed Forces in the Town, during an Election of so great Importance, is an high infringement of their Constitutional Rights; PROTESTING that their proceeding to an Election under such a Circumstance is wholly from necessity and not to be considered as a Precedent in any Time hereafter, or construed as a voluntary receding from the incontestable Rights of British Subjects and Freeholders on so interesting an Occasion —

Joshua Henshaw Esq. one of the Selectmen proposed in their Name to the Inhabitants Assembled to proceed to the Choice of one or more Persons to Represent them in the Great and General Court or Assembly to be held at Boston upon Wednesday the 31 Day of May Currant, and in order thereto to Consider and Ascertain the Number of Gentlemen to be Elected; accordingly it was Voted, to proceed to the Choice of Four Representatives, and then it was declared by the Selectmen that no Votes will be received but such as are folded, and that they propose the Poll shall be closed at 12. O'Clock —

[138.] The Votes being brought in, the Number of the same were found to be Five hundred and eight and upon sorting them it appeared that the Four following Gentlemen were chose — Viz^t. —

The Hon ^{ble} . James Otis Esq.	-	-	-	502
The Hon ^{ble} . Thomas Cushing Esq.	-	-	-	502
M ^r . Samuel Adams	-	-	-	503
John Hancock Esq.	-	-	-	505

The choice of Representatives being over and declared by the Selectmen, the Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Moderator of this Meeting in order that the Town may proceed in transacting the other Affairs mentioned in the Warrant; accordingly the Inhabitants withdrew, and brought in their Votes & upon sorting them it appeared that the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen.

The Article in the Warrant (Viz^t.) “Whether the Town will give Instructions to the Gentlemen that may be chosen to Represent them in the next General Assembly” — was read — whereupon —

Voted, That the Town will give Instructions to their Representatives, and that

Richard Dana Esq.
John Adams Esq.
John Ruddock Esq.
D^r. Benjamin Church
D^r. Joseph Warren
Joshua Henshaw Esq.
M^r. William Mullineux

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to consider of & prepare proper Instructions, which Committee are desired to Report as soon as possible —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3. O’Clock P: M:

3 O’Clock. Met according to Adjournment —

[139.] The Committee Appointed the Fourth Day of May last relative to the Grist Mills at the North part of Boston Report “That your Committee have diligently Searched into the state of the Facts & Records relative to the Affair committed to them, and they find that on the fifth of July in the Year 1643. there was granted to one Henry Simons and others; all that Cove on the North side of the then Cause-way leading towards Charlestown with all the Salt Marsh bordering thereon (not before Granted) to enjoy the said Cove and Marsh to them their Heirs & Assigns forever, but for this intent and on this Condition Viz^t. — That within three Years they should make and Erect upon or near some part of the granted Premisses, one or more Corn Mills and maintain the same forever. And for their encouragement Three hundred Acres of Land in Braintree was given to the said Simons and others, and if they should carry the Mill Stream through the Marsh on the North East end of Goodman Lows House they should have sixty feet in breadth throughout the Marsh to them and their Heirs forever. Your Committee also find that by the said Grant the Town made their reservation, that no other Common Mill should be Erected without their Consent. Your Committee further find that afterwards Viz^t. — on the 27, Day of November following, was solemnly Agreed by and between the Town and the Grantees; that if the Grantees failed of performing the Conditions of their Grant, they should suffer the loss of the Cove & Marsh and all other the granted Lands: That the Grant aforesaid should be void: and the Cove Marsh & Lands aforesaid should revert to the Town; as if no such Grant had ever been made. Moreover by the last mentioned Agreement, thirty three feet of Land in breadth through the Marsh was given to the Grantees in addition to the former sixty feet, if they should set the Mill or Mills between John Gallops Point & Edward Bendals Cove. And that the Town may more perfectly see and understand the matter here follows an exact Copy of the Grants & Agreements aforesaid (Viz^t.) “The 31st. of 5th. M^o. 1643. at a

“ Meeting this Day of John Winthrop Esq. Governor, William Tyng Treasurer Capl. Gibbins, Valentine Hall, John Oliver, There is Granted unto Henry Simons, George Burden, John Button, John Hill & other Partners, all that [140.] Cove already bounded on the North side of the Causeway leading towards (harlestown, with all the Salt Marsh bordering thereupon round about, not formerly Granted to any other, (Reserving liberty from time to time to make use of any part thereof for repairing the said Causey) to have and enjoy the said Cove and Marsh to them and their Heirs and Assigns forever —

“ Secondly the said Grant is for this intent and upon this Condition, that the said Grantees their Heirs and Assigns shall within the space of three Years now next following Erect & make upon or near some part of the Premises One or more Corn Mills & maintain the same forever —

“ Thirdly that the said Grantees shall make & maintain forever, a Gate of ten feet in breadth, to open with the Flood for passage of Boats into the said Cove, at such Time as they may arrive at, their ordinary landing Places —

“ Fourthly, the Town doth Grant unto them their Heirs & Assigns, Three hundred Acres of Land at Braintree for the use and encouragement of the said Mill or Mills —

“ Fifthly, that if they shall carry their Mill Stream thro^t. the Marsh on the North east end of Goodman Lows House, they have sixty feet in breadth throughout the said Marsh Granted unto them their Heirs and Assigns forever —

“ Sixthly, they shall have liberty to dig one or more trenches in the High Way, or Waste Grounds so as they make and maintain sufficient passable & safe Ways over the same for Horse & Cart —

“ Seventhly, the Town will not allow any other Common Mill to be Erected, except the necessary Occasions of the Town should require it —

“ Eighthly, the said Select Townsmen and their Successors shall procure what free help they can (by perswasion) upon any pressing Occasion of use of many hands about making the Banks or Trenches &c. for the better furtherance of the work to be speedily effected —

[141.] “ The 27th. of 9th. M^o. 1643 — John Button and John Hill have now resigned all Claim of Interest in the Business of the Corn Mills Agreed the 31st. of 5th. 1643 —

“ At a Meeting of the Selectmen on the 27th. of 9th. M^o. 1643. The intent of the Agreement between the Town and the Grantees of the Cove &c. for the Miln is as follows —

“ 1st. That the Grantees shall not be bound to reserve any Marsh if they have occasion to cut it up, but in that case the Towns liberty for repairing the Cause-way shall reach to such Land as shall be left. be it up or neither spilt —

“ 2^d. The said Grantes shall not be bound either to the making or maintaining, of any such Miln or Milns upon any other penalty than the loss of the said Cove & Marsh & other Lands Granted return to the Town again, as if it had not been Granted —

“ And for further explanation it is now Agreed and declared between the Town and the Grantees that if the said Grantees shall not go forward, nor perfect the said work as it is intended, or having perfected the same in any measure, shall see good at any time to give over and not continue to uphold and maintain the same, it shall be no breach of Covenant on their part only the Grant to be void (& so forth) as before —

“ And whatsoever Timber or other Materials they shall be at Cost to Erect, or bring upon the Land Granted, it shall be lawful for them to sell off, unto any other Person within the space of one Year, after they shall have left off to proceed in the said work or to uphold & maintain the same being made and finished, provided that if the Town will give them for such Timber Work or other Materials so much as another, they shall have the same, and one Months time for refusal. —

“ Moreover there is thirty-three feet in breadth added to the former Grant near Goodman Lows House and both upon Condition the Miln or Milns may be set between John Gallops Point and Edward Bendalls Cove — What is contained in this and the two foregoing Pages are true Copys as entred with the Records of the Town of Boston [142.] Examined by Joseph Prout Town Clerk” — The Committee further find that the Grantees soon after the Grant was made Erected the Mills by the Mill Bridge between Gallops Point and Bendalls Cove, and maintained the same for many Years; whereby they took to themselves their Heirs & Assigns not only the Cove and the Marsh, but the thirty-three and sixty feet, on each side the Mill Creek, and the three hundred Acres of Land in Braintree notwithstanding the Grant was to be utterly void, upon their failing to maintain and keep up those Mills, which they had Erected as aforesaid and all was to revert to the Town. Therefore it appears clearly to the Committee (in as much as those Mills for many Years last past have been useless wholly unimproved, & for several Years past have been and now remain intirely demolished) that the Grantees have absolutely forfeited their Estate which they had by virtue of the Grant aforesaid; and the same Estate is reverted to the Town —

The Committee are further of Opinion that it would not only be legal but Just and equitable as well as expedient if not necessary for the Town (so far at least as concerns the place where the Mills stood by the Mill Bridge with the Mill Creek) to take the forfeiture aforesaid, and take immediately the possession of the same, and as soon as may be Erect a Mill or Mills in or near the place where the old Mills stood, for the following Reasons which to the Committee appear important — Viz^t.

1st. It is much better to be on the defensive than on the offensive side to be in possession than out of it. —

2^d. Taking the Possession of a part only, when the whole is forfeited proves the clemency & moderation of the Town; and may answer future good purposes —

3^d. As the Proprietors (so called) have not only neglected to Erect new Mills, when the old ones were rotted down, but they

keep even the North Mills in such a wretched Condition; that People in Town cannot have their Grain ground, and it may be Nine [143.] Tenths of the Grain landed in Boston is carried to Chelsea Roxbury Dorchester Malden and Charlestown to the unspeakable damage of the Town of Boston

4th. Were good Mills Erected at the Mill bridge and Wheat manufactured into Flour, both for our home supply & shipping off, our Bread and Flour would be much better than what we now have and consequently it would be cheaper, for the portage out of Town and in again costs considerable and must make our Bread & Flour dearer, and then our own Townsmen would be employed in the stead of Strangers and the Inhabitants in general (especially the poorer sort) would be greatly relieved by having the Grist Mills in the middle part of the Town, but this design of our forefathers in the very generous Grant they made to the original Undertakers for many Years past, has been intirely defeated by the present Occupiers and will continue to be so unless the Town take said Mills into its own hands again, which the Committee are of Opinion the Town have an undoubted right to do —

5th. The Proprietors (so called) are a few of them poor & needy, — and disconcerted amongst themselves and it seems the Interest of some of them to carry Wheat out of Town, so that it is in vain to expect any relief from them, but things will certainly grow worse & worse with them as they have for many Years past; whereby the Town has already suffered the loss of Thousands which may not only be prevented for the future, but it will soon be an Estate of considerable early value and income to the Town if proper steps are taken for that purpose

The above Report having been duly considered by the Town
Voted that James Otis Esq. Moderator

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

Joseph Jackson Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

John Hancock Esq.

Samuel Pemberton Esq.

M^r. Henderson Inches

M^r. Jonathan Mason

[144.] Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

M^r. Edward Payne

Benjamin Kent. Esq.

John Barret Esq

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee who are desired & impowered to take possession in behalf of the Town of such part of the Premises as is specified and recommended to be done in said Report —

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed and impowered to give his Negotiable Notes upon Interest to each of the Overseers of the Poor as are in advance for the relief of the Town, for such Sums as appear to be due them respectively upon the Audit of their Accounts in March last

The Petition of M^r. Samuel Hunt Master of the North Lattin

School "that some addition may be made to his present Salary." read and considered whereupon moved that the Sum of Twenty Pounds be added to his Salary; and the Question being accordingly put — Passed in the Negative —

M^r. Benjamin Dolbear one of the Overseers of the Poor having acquainted the Town that the Roof of the Almshouse was old and defective, and the expence of Repairs like to be considerable; it would therefore be agreable to them to know the minds of the Inhabitants, respecting its being either shingled or slated, whereupon it was Voted that it be left to the Overseers to cover the Roof as they shall Judge proper —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred & twenty Pounds be allowed & paid unto M^r. John Lovel for his Salary as Master of the South Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be [145.] Paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the Expiration of the last Quarter

Voted that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Samuel Hunt for his Salary as Master of the North Grammar School for the ensuing Year, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Procter for his Salary as Master of the Writing in Queen Street for the Year ensuing the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter.

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. Samuel Holbrook for his Salary as Master of the Writing School in the Common for the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Tileston for his Salary as Master of the North Writing School the ensuing Year the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Sixty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Lovel for his Salary as Usher of the South Grammar School for the Year ensuing the same to be paid him Quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

[146.] Voted, that a further Sum of Forty Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Lovel as an encouragement for him to remain and exert himself in the Service of the Town the ensuing Year; the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of £50 — be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Carter for his Salary as Usher of the Writing School in Queen Street the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that a further Sum of Twenty five Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. James Carter as an encouragement to him for to

exert himself in the service of the Town the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Sum of Fifty Pounds be allowed and paid to such Persons as the Selectmen shall appoint an Assistant for the Master of the Writing School in the Common the Year ensuing, the same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter

Voted, that the Sum of One hundred Pounds be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury unto M^r. David Jeffries for his Service as Treasurer of the Town the Year past, and for all his Expences in that Office —

Voted, that the Sum of Thirty four Pounds be allowed and paid unto M^r. John Tileston Master of the Writing School at the North End for providing an Assistant the Year ensuing [147.] The same to be paid him quarterly as it shall become due, and to commence at the expiration of the last Quarter —

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed and impowered to allow the several Schoolmasters Interest on the Sums due to them from the date of their Warrants to the Time of payment —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday the 8. Day of May. 9. O'Clock A : M :

May 8. 9 O'Clock A : M : Met according to Adjournment^t.

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting Assembled May 5. 1769 —

Pursuant to a Vote of the Town of Boston at their Annual Meeting the 4th. of May last desiring the Selectmen to visit the several publick Schools in the Town and to invite such Gentlemen to accompany them therein as they should think proper & to Report thereon —

We the Subscribers accordingly attended that Service on Wednesday the 6th. Day of July last accompanied by the following Gentlemen — viz^t.

The Hon^{ble}. James Bowdoin Esq.

Thomas Hubbard Esq.

Harrison Gray Esq.

John Erving Esq.

Thomas Flucker Esq.

James Pitts Esq.

James Otis Esq.

The Representatives of the Town

[148.] The Overseers of the Poor

The Rev^d. Ebenezer Pemberton

M^r. Samuel Mather

Mather Byles — D : D :

Andrew Eliot — D : D :

Samuel Cooper — D : D

M^r. Samuel Blair

M^r. Penuil Bowen

M^r. Simeon Howard

M^r. John Lothrop

Mr. John Walley
 Mr. Treasurer Jeffries
 Samuel Sewall Esq.
 Mr. Timothy Newell
 William Phillips Esq.
 Benjamin Austin Esq.
 Mr. William Coffin Jun^r.
 Mr. John Edwards
 Mr. James Perkins
 Mr Jonathan Simpson Esq.
 Dr. Myles Whitworth
 Dr. Joseph Warren
 Cap^t. Nathaniel Greenwood
 Mr. William Davis
 John Scollay Esq.
 Samuel Grant Esq.
 Coll^o. Thomas Marshall
 Maj^r. James Cunningham
 William Homes Esq.
 Thomas Daw Esq.
 Mr. John Mico Wendell
 Samuel Quincy Esq.

And found the South Grammar School had 141 Scholars the North [149.] Grammar School 55 Scholars; the South Writing School 201 Scholars the North Writing School in Queen Street 260 Scholars; all in good Order —

Voted, that the above Report be accepted, and that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be desired to visit the publick Schools the Year ensuing, and invite such Gentlemen to accompany them as they may think proper —

The Committee appointed for that purpose Reported the following Draft of Instructions which was considered and Voted Paragraph by Paragraph — after which being several Times distinctly read was accepted by the Town, Nomine-Contradicente —

To the Hon^{ble}. James Otis & Thomas Cushing Esq. Mr. Samuel Adams, & John Hancock. Esq.

Gentlemen

You have once more received the highest Testimony of the Confidence and Affection of your Constituents, which the Constitution has impowered them to exhibit; The Trust of Representing them in the Great & General Court or Assembly of this Province. This important Trust is committed to you at a Time when your Country demands the exertion of all your Wisdom, Fortitude and Virtue; and therefore it is presumed a free Communication of our Sentiments cannot but be agreeable to you —

The first Object of your attention is the Privilege of that Assembly of which you are now chosen to be Members. The Debates there must be free: You will therefore exert yourselves to remove every thing that may carry the least appearance of an Attempt to awe or intimidate. As the Assembly is called to set in the usual place, common Decency, as well as the Honor and Dignity of a free Legislative, will require a removal of those Cannon and

Guards, as well as that clamorous Parade which has been dayly round the Court House since the arrival [150.] Of his Majestys Troops ; and at some times while the highest Courts of Judicature has been setting there on the tryal even of Capitol Causes — When this Grievance shall be removed, and the Debates of the Assembly shall be free, it will be natural to enquire into all the Grievances we have suffered from the Military Power ; Why they have been quartered in the Body of this Town, in contradiction to the express words, and as we conceive the manifest intention of an Act of Parliment ; Why the Officers who have thus violated our Rights, have not been called to account, and dealt with as the Law required : Whether the Measure taken by the Governor of the Province in appointing an extraordinary Officer to provide Quarters for the Troops, was not an evasion of the Act of Parliament made for the Billeting and quartering his Majestys Troops in America (the professed rule of their Conduct) and design'd to Elude the Clause of said Act purposely providing for the convenience of American Subjects and their Security against an excess of Military power : Why the repeated offences and Violences committed by the Soldiery, against the peace, and in open Defiance and Contempt of the Civil Majestrate and the Laws have escaped punishment in the Courts of Justice : And whether the Attorney General has not in some late Instances, unduly exercised a power of entring “ Nolle prosequi ” upon Indictments without the Concurrance of the Court in obstruction to the course of Justice and to the great Encouragement of Violence and Oppression. —

And as the quartering of Troops here has proved the Occasion of many Evils, we do earnestly recommend to you to use your utmost endeavours for a speedy removal of them. —

Should the Expence that has been incurred in providing Barracks for the Troops, and supplying them with Necessaries, be required of the House of Representatives, we do in the most solemn and express manner enjoin you, by no means to comply with such a Requisition. If the General Court is a free Assembly no Power upon Earth has Authority to compel it to pay this Money. Should it ever be deprived of its freedom, it shall never with our Consent be made [151.] An Engine to drain us of the little Money we have left. Another Object of great Importance, and which requires your earliest attention, is a late fragrant and formal Attack upon the Constitution itself : An Attempt not only to deprive us of the Liberteis Privileges & Immunities of our Charter, but the Rights of British Subjects. We have seen Copies of Letters published here authenticated by the Clerk of the Papers to the Hon^{ble}: House of Commons, the Contents of which must have awakened the Jealousy of the Country — the Design of the Writer is sufficiently apparent : And considering his Station as Representative of the first Personage in the Empire, and the rank of the Minister to whom he Addressed himself, we cannot wonder that Credit has been given to his Letters in Great Britain and that they have already produced Effects alarming to the Colonies & dangerous to both Countrys. It is therefore requested that you use the whole Influence you may have that the injurious impressions which they have unhappily made, may

be removed and that an effectual Antidote may be Administred, before the Poison shall have wrought the Ruin of the Constitution. —

It is unnecessary for us at this Time to repeat our well known Sentiments concerning the Revenue, which is continually levied upon us, to our great Distress, and for no other end than to support a great Number of very unnecessary Placemen and Pensioners. We have only to add that our Sentiments upon this Subject are in no respect changed; and we expect that you pursue with firm Resolution, and unremitted Ardor, every Measure that may tend to procure us Relief; Never yeilding your Consent to, or Connivance at the least encroachment on our Rights. —

Next to the Revenue itself the late Extensioⁿ of the Jurisdiction of the Admiralty, are our greatest Grievance, The American Courts of Admiralty seem to be forming by Degrees into a System that is to overturn our Constitution, and to deprive us intirely of our best Inheritance, *the Law of the Land*. It would be thought in England a dangerous Innovation if the Tryal of any Matter *upon Land*, was given to the Admiral: It would be thought more threatning still [152.] If the power of Confiscation, over Ships and Cargoes for Illicit Trade was committed to that Court — But if the Forfeitures of Ships & Cargoes, large Penalties upon Masters, and such exhorbitent Penalties as the treble value of Cargoes, upon every Person concerned in landing unaccustomed Goods, were by Act of Parliament appointed to be tryed by the Admiral, the Nation would think their Liberties irrecoverably lost. —

This however is the miserable Case of North America. In the 41. 8 of the Statute of the 4. of George III Chap^r. 15. We find “that all the *Forfeiture & Penalties inflicted by this or any o’her Act of Parliament, relating to the Trade and Revenues of the British Colonies or Plantations in America, which shall be incurred there may be presented, sued for and recovered in any Court of Admiralty in the said Colonies*” — That those extraordinary Penalties & Forfeitures are to be heard and tryed — not by a Jury — not by the Law of the Land but by the Civil Law and a single Judge! Unlike the *Antient* Barrons who answered with one voice “We will not that the Laws of England be changed which of old have been used and improved,” the Barrons of *Modern Times* seem to have answered, that they are willing those Laws should be changed with regard to America; in the most tender point and fundamental Principle!

And this hardship is the most severe as we see in the same Page of the Statutes, and the Section immediately preceding “that all Penalties and Forfeitures which shall be incurred in Great Britain, shall be prosecuted Sued for and recovered, in any of his Majestys Courts of Record in Westminster, or in the Court of Exchequer in Scotland respectively.” Here is a Contrast that stares us in the Face! A partial distinction that is made between the Subjects in *Great Britain* and the Subjects in America! the Parliament in one Section guarding the People of the Realm and securing to them the benefit of a tryal by Jury and the Law of the Land, and by the next Session depriving Americans of those important Rights — Is not

this distinction a brand of disgrace upon every American a Degradation [153.] Below the Rank of an English Man? Is it not with respect to us a Repeal of the 29 Chap^r. of *Magna Charta* “ *No Freeman shall be taken and Imprisoned, or Deprived of his Freehold or Liberties, or free Customs, or Outlawed and exiled, or any otherwise destroyed, nor will we pass upon him nor condemn him, but by lawful Judgment of his Piers or the Law of the Land?* ” Englishmen are inviolably attached to the Important Right expressed in this Clause, which for many Centuries has been the noblest Monument and firmest Bulwark of their Liberties. One proof of his Attachment, given us by a great Sage of the Law, we think proper to mention, not for your Information, but as the best expression of the sense of your Constituents. “ *Against this Ancient and Fundamental Law, and in the Face thereof says Lord Coke I find on Act of Parliament made, that as well Justices of Assize, as Justices of Peace, without any finding or presentment of twelve Men, upon a bare Information for the King before them made, should have full power and Authority by their discretions to hear and try Men for Penalties and Forfeitures.* ” His Lordship after mentioning the Repeal of this Statute, and the fate of Empson & Dudley, who received the full weight of the National Vengeance for acting under it, concludes with a Reflection which if well Considered, might be sufficient to discourage such Attacks upon Fundamental Principles. “ *The ill Success of this Statute and the fearful end of those two Oppressors, should deter others from committing the like, and should admonish Parliaments, that instead of this ordinary and precious Tryal by the Law of the Land, they bring not in absolute & partial Trials by discretion.* — Such are the feelings and Reflections of an English Man, upon a Statute not unlike the Statute now under Consideration, and upon Courts and Judges not unlike the Courts & Judges of Admiralty in America. —

The formidable power of these Courts and their distressing Course of Proceedings have been severely felt within the Year past; many of your Fellow Citizens having been worn out with Attendance upon them, in defence against Information for extravagant & enormous Penalties. And we have the highest Reason to fear from past Experiences [154.] That if no Relief is obtained for us, the Properties & Liberties of this unhappy Country, and its Morals too, will be ruined by these Courts, and the Persons employed to support them. —

We therefore earnestly recommend to you, by every legal Measure to endeavor that the power of these Courts may be confined to their *proper Element*, according to the antient English Statutes; and that you Petition & Remonstrate against the late Extension of their Jurisdictions; and we doubt not the other Colonies and Provinces who suffer with us under them, will cheerfully harmonize with this in every Justifiable Measure that may be taken for a Redress. —

We need not here take Occasion to Instruct you, that while you in the most ample manner testify your loyalty to our gracious Sovereign, you will strenuously assert & maintain the Right of the Subject jointly or severally to Petition the King; or to declare

it as our clear Opinion, that the House of Representatives in any one Province has an undeniable Right, whenever a Just Occasion shall offer, to communicate their Sentiments upon a common concern to the Assembly of any or all the other Colonies, and to unite with them in humble dutiful & loyal Petitions for Redress of a general Grievance —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 3, O'Clock P: M: —

3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournm^t.

Voted, unanimously, that the Instructions given our Representatives relative to their Conduct in the General Assembly be published in the several News Papers

Upon a Motion made and seconded.

[155.] Voted, that it gives high satisfaction to the Town to be informed that our Merchants have so strictly adhered to their Agreement relative to a Non Importation of European Merchandize and that it be and hereby is recommended to the Inhabitants not to purchase any Goods of those few Persons who have imported any Articles in the Vessels lately arrived from Great Britain, not allowed of by said Agreement, and that on the contrary they will use their Influence to promote in the way of Trade the Interest of those Gentlemen, who have nobly preferred the future welfare of their Country and all North America to any present advantages of their own —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, that

Mr. William Whitwell

Thomas Daws Esq.

Melataiah Bourn Esq.

Mr. Alexander Hill

Mr. Ezekiel Price

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to examine the Town Treasurers Accounts now before the Town, and to make a full enquiry into the state of the Town Treasury, and the Debts and Credits of the Town and also to Report the same at the Adjournment together with what Sum or Sums may be necessary to be raised for the ensuing Year as a Town Tax —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to the 22^d. Instant 9 O'Clock. A: M: and that Notifications be issued informing the Inhabitants of the Business which will then come before them —

May 22^d. — Town Met according to Adjournment —

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants for paving the upper end of Long Lane was read — whereupon Voted, that the Town will pay One third part of the Expence of paving the same provided it be done to the satisfaction of the Selectmen —

[156.] Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to act upon the List of Jurors —

Mess^{rs}. Thomas Bayley

John Gill

were chose Sveyors of Boards for the Year ensuing —

A Letter from the Gentlemen the Selectmen of Charlestown acquainting the Town with the Agreement entred into by the Inhabitants of that Town not to purchase any Lamb or suffer any to

be Cooked in their Familys before the first Day of August 1769— and desiring the concurrence of the Inhabitants of Boston in this Measure for Reasons mentioned in said Letter — was read — where-upon

Voted, that Benjamin Kent Esq.

M^r. Ezekiel Price

M^r. Nathaniel Homes

M^r. Benjamin Harrod

M^r. Nathaniel Barber

M^r. Jonathan Amory

M^r. John Ballard

M^r. Peter Johannot

William Homes Esq.

M^r. William Baves

M^r. William Boardman

M^r. Thomas Jackson

be and hereby are appointed a Committee to draw up & procure Subscriptions to a Agreement not to purchase any Lamb for Family consumption 'till the first of July next —

The Committee appointed to examine the Accounts of M^r. David Jeffries Town Treasurer have attended that service and find the same right Cast and well Vouched, in which he Charges himself with some Fines, Rents & other Incomes of the Town as also [157.] With the Tax of £6000 — all which amount to the Sum of £10744 ,, 10 ,, 5/2 including the Balance of old Accounts. — And the said Treasurer discharges himself by sundry Abatements made the Collectors amounting to £726 ,, 4 ,, 3. By Drafts made by the Selectmen amounting to £3069 ,, 1 ,, 5. of which he has paid £2199 ,, 2 ,, 11/2 And by Drafts made by the Overseers of the Poor which contain the Charges of the Almshouse amounting to £2652 ,, 4 ,, 7/4 of which he has paid £1480 ,, 2 ,, 1/2 — Also by sundry Sums paid for Interest amounting to £206 ,, 13 ,, 3/2 the whole amounting to £7453 ,, 13 ,, 7/4. —

The said Committee have inspected said Drafts in a very particular manner, and have examined the Vouchers produced by the Overseers of the Poor for the amount of their Drafts, and every other branch of public Charge amounting in all as above to £7453 ,, 13 ,, 7/4 as by Account of Town Treasury in the Town Treasurers Books Balance whereof being £3290 ,, 16 ,, 10/4 is carried to the Credit of new Accounts" which Report and Account being read. Voted, that the same be and hereby is accepted. —

The Town brought in their Votes for Two Constables, and upon sorting them it appeared that —

Mess^{rs}. George Thomas

John Peirce

were chose Constables for the Year ensuing —

The Committee Appointed the 8 Instant to examine the Town Treasurers Account now before the Town, and to make a full enquiry into the state of the Town Treasury and Debts and Credits of the Town, as also to Report the same at the Adjournment together with what Sum or Sums of Money may be necessary to

be raised for the ensuing Year as a Town Tax having attended that service, beg leave to Report as follows. —

Debts due to the Province Treasury, from the Five following persons [158.] Collectors May 18 Instant — Viz^t.

Due from Jon^a. Payson Esq. a former Collector for 1766-£575,,14,,6
 --- from M^r. Sampson Salter - - - - - for 1767-871,,12,,3
 --- from M^r. Samuel Ruggles Jun^r. - - - for 1767-603,,16,,7
 --- from M^r. Abraham Savage - - - - - for 1767-402,,19,,7
 --- from M^r. Edward Hollyday - - - - - for 1767-76,,15,,8

Balance due to Province Treasury from the
 above Collectors £2530,,18,,7

Due from Jonathan Payson Esq. a former Collector }
 --- to the Town for 1766 - - - - - } £746,,7,,9

With the above Sum due to the Province Treasury 575,,14,,6

£1322,,2,,3

Deduct the Premium from said Sum when paid - - 190,,,-

Leaves a Balance due from said Payson - - - - £1132,,2,,3

Moneys due on Interest —

To the Overseers of the Poor for 1767. & 1768 - £1011,,14,,10

To the Sum borrowed for the Overseers to purchase
 Grain 400,,,-,-

To M^r. Lazinby and M^r. Farmer Master of the Work }
 --- House and Alms House - - - - - } 567,,,-,-

To the several School Masters - - - - - 1600,,,-,-

To sundry Persons borrowed - - - - - 2126,,,-,-

To Sum borrowed for M^r. Mullineux - - - - - 500,,,-,-

£6204,,14,,10

Interest now due to School Masters and others - - 402,,,-,-

The Committee also find by Accounts from the
 --- Town Treasurer that the Moneys due to sundry
 --- Persons who Rebuilt Faneuil Hall for which } 1452,,,-,-

--- the Town pays Interest amount to, as will
 --- appear from the state of the Lottery hereto }
 --- annexed - - - - -

As the Committee cannot with certainty ascertain
 --- the Towns part of the Sum on Interest for the
 --- new Court House and Goal, we suppose it to be

--- about - - - - - £1200,,,-,-

As also the Charges already commenced for Rebuild-
 --- ing of the County Goal - - - - - 900,,,-,-

Total of the supposed Sum on Interest for the Towns
 --- part of y^e. County Tax - - - - - £2100,,,-,-

[159.] The state of the Town Treasury by the Treasurers
 Accounts in March last stood thus. Debts £8511 ,, 16 ,, 7. The
 Credits £8821 ,, The Committee would observe here that a part of
 the above Credit is under such Circumstances as to render the
 same insuff^ticient to discharge the Debts by the Sum of £1272 ,, —

after the Tax of £6000 — is paid into the Treasury for 1768 — And the Arrears due from M^r. Payson for 1766. amounting to £746 ,, 7 ,, 9 — The Interest arising on the above Sum of £6204 ,, 14 ,, 10 being £372 — It therefore appears to the Comm^{tes}. necessary for the Town to raise the aforementioned Sums amounting to £1644 ,, 16 ,, — over and above what is necessary to defrey the Charges of the present Year, which we would suppose to be £6355 ,, 4/. so that the whole Sum proposed to be Raised by the Town is £8000 — provided some more effectual Measures be pursued for the payment of the Taxes in the Treasury, than has heretofore been practised by the Town —

State of the Lottery - - - - -	
1767 — February 10 th . To M ^r . Temple De Coster -	£230,,-,-
To Onesipherus Tileston -	650,,-,-
19: To Samuel Ruggles - - -	312,,-,-
To Thomas Dawes - - -	260,,-,-
	<hr/>
Notes on Interest - - - - -	£1452,,-,-
Due to John Hancock Esq. - - - - -	20
to Robert Gould - - - - -	13,, 6,, 8
Leanord Jarvis - - - - -	13,, 6,, 8
	<hr/>
	£1498,,13,4
	<hr/>

1769 — May 20	£
By Cash in the hands of Thom ^r . Cushing Esq.	171,,10,,8
By Ditto in the hands of John Ruddock Esq.	128,, 2,,-
By Ditto in the hands of Treasurer - - - -	307,,12,,-
	<hr/>
	£607,, 4,, 8
Ballance due - - - - -	891,, 8,, 8
	<hr/>
	£1498,,13,4
	<hr/>

Your Committee are of Opinion it would be for the Interest of [160.] The Town to have the Tax for 1769 Collected and paid into the Treasury by the Time fixed by the Town for the payment of the same, the Expence of the Town it is probable would be thereby lessened, as it would be in the power of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor to purchase what was wanted for the Towns use at a much cheaper rate with the Cash then upon Credit —

Your Committee are also of Opinion that the Outstanding Debts due to the Town should be Collected and paid in forthwith, in order to discharge the Interest Money now due, as well as to lesson the Principle —

They also recommend to the Town to Choose Collectors to Collect the Town Tax the next Year sepperate from the Collectors for the Province and County, for by having the Taxes come out so late in the Year as formerly, the Town has for a considerable Time been One Year behind hand — To remedie this in part if the Town Tax was laid early and sepperate Collectors chosen, the

same or the greater part may be Collected in the Year, and thereby save a great part of the Sum we otherwise must pay Interest for on Moneys borrowed —

The above Report having been read and considered — the Question was put — Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affirmative —

Upon a Motion made and seconded, Voted, that the Town Treasurer be directed that in case Major Jonathan Payson a late Collector of Taxes does not pay in to the Town Treasury his Town Tax before July next, or give security to the satisfaction of the Selectmen, to pay the Principal and Interest thereof — that then his Bonds be put in Suit next July Court.

Voted, that the Town Treasurer be directed to call upon all the Collectors of Taxes to hasten the Collection of the Taxes committed to them —

[161.] And that if he finds any deficiency, he then call upon the Province Treasurer to issue his Executions against them —

Voted, that M^r. William Whitwell

Thomas Daws Esq.

Melataiah Bourn Esq.

M^r. Alexander Hill

M^r. Ezekiel Price

be a standing Committee to inspect the state of the Town Treasury, and from time to time to Report upon that and other Money Matters, and if they see fit to Apply to the Selectmen for a Town Meeting to be called upon the same —

Voted, that the Sum of Eight Thousand Pounds be Raised by a Tax upon Polls and Estates within this Town, for Relief of the Poor and defraying other necessary Charges arising within the Town the ensuing Year —

Upon a Motion made and seconded Voted, that M^r. William Whitwell and others a Standing Committee to inspect the State of the Treasury, be a Committee to call upon the late Manufactory Company for the Money due from them to the Town and if they do not pay the same, that they then apply to the Town Treasurer to bring an Action against them for the same —

The Town brought in their Votes for a Warden in the room of M^r. William Powell, excused from serving on account of his Health — and upon sorting them it appeared that —

M^r. John Cunningham —

was chosen a Warden for the Year ensuing —

Voted, that all Matters and Things which remain unfinished at this Meeting be and hereby are referred over to the next General Town Meeting to be then Considered of and acted upon at said Meeting.

[162.] Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be & hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 13th. Day of June Anno Domini 1769 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting read —

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator, but the Constable not being able to find him, the Town proceeded to the choice of another, and upon bringing in the Votes appeared that Richard Dana Esq. was chosen, who took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island as required by an Act of this Province —

[163.] The Committee Appointed on the 4 Day of May last relative to the Grist Mills at the North part of Boston — Report — That on the twenty-seventh Day of May A D: 1769 they did pursuant to Appointment Repair to the Premises mentioned in the Report of a former Committee made to the Town the fifth of said May, and there took some Possession and Seizon of that part of the Premises — viz^t. — The Land whereon the Grist Mills lately stood, and the Lands Adjoining to and about the same, in the Name of the whole, this the Committee did in behalf of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston —

In the Name and by direction of the Committee

JAMES OTIS

We the Subscribers were present and saw the Committee aforesaid take Possession and Seizon of the Premises aforesaid as above mentioned by Turf & Twig, and left them in quiet Possession of the same May 27. 1769 - - - - - JONAS BOND, THOMAS ROBBINS, Jun^r.

The above Report having been read — Voted, that the same be accepted —

The Article in the Warrant relative to the Grist Mills by the Mill Bridge was read and Considered, whereupon Voted that —

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq.

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

Joseph Jackson Esq.

John Ruddock Esq.

John Hancock Esq.

Samuel Pemberton Esq.

M^r. Henderson Inches

M^r. Jonathan Mason

Ezekiel Goldthwait Esq.

M^r. Edward Payne

Benjamin Kent Esq.

John Barrett Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to pursue what [164.] Steps may be necessary for recovering the actual Possession of the Dwelling House and Land near to the Grist Mills by the Mill Bridge, as also to prosecute in the Law such Suit and Suits as may be effectual for obtaining for the Town quiet Possession of said Premises, or any part thereof; and to pursue the same untill final Judgement and Execution —

John Tuder Esq. and some others of the Proprietors of the Grist Mills near the Mill Bridge being present were (at their desire) heard the Matters relative to said Mills now under the Consideration of the Town, and afterwards upon a Motion made and seconded, It was Voted, that the above Committee be and they hereby are Appointed a Committee, to Confer with the Proprietors of said Mills, the Major part of them, or such a Committee as they shall appoint, relative to said Mills, & receive such Proposals as they shall give in Writing under their hands & Report the same to the Town at the Adjournment of this Meeting, that so the Town may proceed further thereon as shall be thought proper, and this the Committee are desired to do before any Suit is brought for possession of said premisses —

The Petition of Jonathan Payson Esq. a late Collector of Taxes, that three Months longer Time may be allowed him to Collect his Outstanding Debts and pay the Town — was read and Considered; and the Question being put Whether the same shall be accepted — Passed in the Affermative —

Adjourned to Tuesday the 4 July 3 O'Clock P: M:

Tuesday July 4 1769. 3 O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment.

[165.] The Committee relative to the Grist Mills Report— That they had met a majority of the Proprietors, who appeared for themselves & the other Proprietors absent and conferred with them relative to the Matters desired, and had also received Proposals from said Proprietors in Writing which they herewith present to the Town —

JOSEPH JACKSON Chairman

The Committee to conferr with the Proprietors of the Mills and to receive any proposals in Writing and hand in to the Town at the Adjournment, have Reported to the Town certain Proposals, which they had just received from the Proprietors, which Proposals being read and largely debated — the Question was put — Whether the Proposals shall be accepted — Passed in the Negative Nemine Contr —

Voted, unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Richard Dana Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting, for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved —

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday the 4th July Anno Domini 1769. 4 O'Clock P: M:

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read.

[166.] Richard Dana Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, & took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments as required by an Act of this Province —

The Petition of a great number of respectable Inhabitants setting forth — “That some Persons have as they are informed from good Authority, petitioned or requested of his Excellency Sir Francis Bernard Barronet, Commander in Chief of this Province, that the 14th or some other Regiment may be detained in this Town in order to protect their Lives and Properties, notwithstanding the Laws of the Land make ample provision for the Security of all his Majestys Subjects, without the aid of any Military force whatever; and fearing such Report may be Represented to Administration as the Sense of the Inhabitants, they pray that such steps may be taken as the Town shall think proper, to prevent the ill effects of such Representations, and to convince the World that the Residence of a Military Power in the Body of this Metropolis is upon various Considerations; quite disagreeable to the Inhabitants” — was read and Considered — and the following Votes passed —

Whereas this Town have in diverse ways, more particularly in a late humble Petition to our most gracious Sovereign, expressed their Grief and astonishment to find Accounts had been transmitted from hence to Administration representing this Town to be in a state of disorder and confusion, and in opposition to the due restraints of Law and Constitutional Authority thereby inducing the necessity of a military Power to aid the Civil Magistrate and preserve the Peace; And whereas in said Petition the Town declare these Accounts to be ill grounded which have represented them as held to their Allegiance & Duty, only by the Band of Terror and the force of Arms, and at the same time humbly supplicate his Majesty to remove the Military power now among us, which they were unanimous in their Opinion was a Power unnecessary — a power unfavourable to Commerce [167.] Destructive to Morals, dangerous to Law, and tending to overthrow the Civil Constitution — therefore Voted, unanimously That such Persons among us if any such there be as have Petitioned Governor Bernard, or in any other way signified their desire, that some of the Troops may be detained for the preservation of their Persons & Properties have therein counteracted the declared Sense of the Town, discovered themselves ignorant of its true Interest, and highly inamical to its Peace and Prosperity — also —

Voted unanimously, that if on any Occasion it should become necessary, the Town are and always have been ready to Obey and Assist the Civil Magistrate in the due Execution of the good and wholesome Laws of this Land, which they are of Opinion will be sufficient for the preservation of peace and good order, without any Military and foreign aid whatever —

Upon a Motion made and seconded — Voted, that the foregoing Votes be printed in one of the publick News Papers, subject to the Corrections of the Moderator, he not to depart from the sense thereof —

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Richard Dana Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[168.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Wednesday the 4th Day of October Anno Domini 1769 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read. —

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments, as required by an Act of this Province —

Agreable to the Notification of the Selectmen it was ordered that the authentick Copies of the several Letters Memorials &c. wrote by Governor Bernard, Commodore Hood, the Commissioners of the Customs and others, to the Ministry, which were laid before the Parliament and transmitted to the Selectmen by William Bollan Esq. be read, so far as they relate to this Town: And they were read accordingly —

A Motion was then made, and it was unanimously Voted, That the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to William Bollan Esq. for his generous care in transmitting to the Selectmen authentick Copies of Letters wrote to his Majestys Ministers of State, by Governor Bernard, General Gage, Commodore Hood and others, and also of several Memorials of the Commissioners of the Customs in America — In which Letters and Memorials the Disposition and Conduct of the Inhabitants of the Town have been grossly misrepresented to their Sovereign, in Consequence whereof they have been sensibly affected with the Marks of his Majestys [169.] Displeasure — And that the Moderator be directed to transmit this Vote of Thanks to M^r. Bollan, for so seasonable and important a service. Also

Voted, unanimously, that —

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq.

M^r. Samuel Adams

John Adams Esq.

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq.

D^r. Joseph Warren

Richard Dana Esq.

Joshua Henshaw Esq.

Joseph Jackson Esq.

Benjamin Kent Esq.

be and hereby are Appointed a Committee to Consider what Measures are proper to be taken to vindicate the Character of the Town from the false and injurious representations contained in the Letters & Memorials aforesaid, and Report at the Adjournment of this Meeting —

After which upon a Motion made the following Vote was unanimously passed —

The Merchants not only of this Metropolis but through the Continent having nobly preferred the publick Good to their own private Emolument: And with a View to obtain a Redress of the Grievances so loudly and Justly complained of, having almost unanimously engaged to suspend their Importation from Great Britain: A Measure approved by all Orders as legal peaceable,

and most likely of all other to effect the salutary design in view; and which will be regarded by Posterity with Veneration, for the disinterested and truly publick Spirit appearing in it: The Town cannot but express their Astonishment and Indignation, that any of its Citizens should be so lost to the feelings of Patriotism, and the common Interest, and so thoroughly & infamously selfish as to obstruct *this very* Measure, by continuing their Importation [170.] Be it therefore SOLEMNLY Voted, that the Names of those Persons *few* indeed to the Honor of the Town, viz^t. JOHN BERNARD, NATHANIEL ROGERS THEOPHILUS LITTLE, JAMES McMASTERS AND COMPANY, JOHN MEIN, THOMAS HUTCHINSON JUN^r. AND ELISHA HUTCHINSON — BE ENTRED on the Records of this Town, that *Posterity* may know, who those Persons were that preferred their little private advantage to the common Interest of all the Colonies, in a point of the greatest Importance; who not only deserted but opposed their Country, in a struggle for the Rights of the Constitution, that must ever do it honor: And who with a design to enrich themselves, basely took Advantage of the generous self denial of their Fellow Citizens for the Common Good. —

Ordered that the foregoing Votes be printed in the Several publick News Papers —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Wednesday the 18 Instant at 10 O'Clock in the Fore-Noon —

October 18 10 O'Clock A: M: Met according to Adjournment —

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. Chairman of the Committee appointed to transmit a Petition of the Town to the Hon^{ble}. Isaac Barre Esq. of London by him to be presented to his Majesty; received the following Letter which was read to the Town —

Bath July 20 1769.

Sir

I had the honor of receiving your Letter with its Inclosures on the first of June. It gives me very great satisfaction to find that my publick Conduct continues to meet with the approbation of so respectable a Body of his Majestys loyal Subjects, and I feel myself much flatter'd with receiving the Commands of the [171.] Inhabitants of Boston — I am now to acquaint you that the Day after your Letter reached my hand I had the honor of laying at the Kings Feet, the Petition which you transmitted to me, addressed to his Majesty.

Your Fellow Citizens, Sir, may rest assured that their application to the Throne for Redress, has not upon this occasion been intercepted —

Their situation and Grievances are stated by themselves, are now fully known to their Sovereign, whose Princely Virtues give them abundant reason to be perswaded with me, that his heart will feel and his own genuine wisdom will in due course of time dictate the most proper methods of alleviating the distresses of his faithful Subjects, however remote they may be from his Royal Presence —

Permit me to add my sincere wishes that the future measures for the better governing of America may be of such a conciliating

nature as will effectually restore that affection and obedience which formerly characterized all the dependances of this great Nation —

I am

with personal esteem and regard

Sir

Your most obedient & most

humble servant

ISAAC BARREE

The Committee appointed the 4 Instant "to Consider what Measures are proper to be taken to vindicate the Character of the Town from the false and injurious Representations contained in the Letters & Memorials wrote by Governor Bernard, Commodore Hood, the Commissioners of the Customs and others" Reported a Draft; And upon a Motion made and seconded, the Same was recommitted, and the Committee desired to Report again in the Afternoon. —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 4 O'Clock. P: M:

[172.] October 18th. 4. O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment —

The Inhabitants brought in their Votes for a Collector of Taxes in the room of M^r. Samuel Ruggles Jun^r. who declined serving and upon sorting them it appeared that —

M^r. Jacob Wendell

was chosen into that Office —

The Committee according to Order, again Reported a Draft relative to Governor Bernard, Commodore Hood, General Gages & Commissioners Letters and Memorials, (see at the close of this Year the same recorded at large) — which Report being read and considered, was unanimously accepted, and Ordered to be published and the Committee were directly respectfully to transmit a printed Copy of the same to the following Gentlemen. Viz'. — *The Hon^{ble}. Coll^o. Isaac Barree Esq.* a Member of Parliament, *His Excellency Thomas Pownall Esq.* late Governor of this Province, and a Member of Parliament, *Benjamin Franklin Esq.* Doctor of Laws, *William Bollen Esq.* Agent for his Majestys Council of this Province, *Dennis Deberdt Esq.* Agent for the House of Representatives, and *Barlow Trecothick Esq.* Alderman of the City of London, and a Member of Parliament —

Then the Committee made Report of the following Resolves Viz'. —

Resolved, That the Letters and Memorials of Governor Bernard and the Commissioners of the Customs in America, transmitted by them respectively to his Majestys Ministers, and laid before the Parliament of Great Britain, authentick Copys of which are now before this Town, had a tendency to deceive the Ministry, and lead them unavoidably to misinform his Majesty, with Regard to the Affections and loyalty of his American Subjects in general: [173.] And that the said Governor Bernard and the Commissioners have particularly in their Letters and Memorials before mentioned, discovered an implacable Enmity to this Town, and the

most virulent Endeavors to traduce it even to his Majesty himself, by Means whereof the Inhabitants very sensibly feel the Displeasure of their gracious Sovereign —

Resolved, That this Town have Reason to rejoice in the Measure taken by the Hon^{ble}. House of Representatives, in the last Session of the General Assembly; by so seasonably preferring their dutiful and loyal Petition to his Majesty, for the removal of Governor Bernard *forever*, from the Government of this Province: And the Town take this Opportunity to express their most ardent wish, that the Prayer of said Petition to his Majesty may be graciously heard and granted —

Resolved, That General Gage and Commodore Hood in their Several Letters to his Majestys Ministers and Servants, authentick Copies of which are now before the Town, have discovered an unreasonable Prejudice against the Town. And the General in particular, in declaring in his Letter to the Right Hon^{ble}. the Earl of Hillsborough, one of his Majestys Secretaries of State that “in truth there was very little Government in Boston” and in making use of other Expressions *alike severe*, has done great injustice to the Town, and an irreparable injury. And it is moreover the Opinion of the Town, that the *readiness* he has discovered to receive unfavourable Impressions of it, and the publick Testimony he was prevailed on to bear against it, before he could have had Time to make an impartial Enquiry, betrayed a want of *Candor* unbecoming his Station and Character —

Resolved, That many of the Letters & Memorials aforesaid are false scandalous and infamous Libels upon the Inhabitants of this Town, Province and Continent, of the most virulent and Malicious, as well as dangerous and pernicious tendency: And that the Selectmen be and hereby are directed, to apply and complain to proper authority, that the wicked Authors of these incendiary Libels, may be proceeded with [174.] According to Law, and brought to condign punishment.

Voted, That Mess^{rs}. Edes and Gill have the printing of the vindication of the Town of Boston from the many false and malicious Aspersions contained in Governor Bernard, and others Letters &c. as Reported by the Committee —

The Committee appointed by the Town to inspect the State of the Town Treasury, from Time to Time and make Report upon that and other Money Matters, now Report, That M^r. Payson a late Collector has paid the Town Treasurer £2, , 12, , 8 since their former Report, and also the Province Treasurer £107 — So that there is still due to the Town Treasurer £743, , 15, , 1. and to the Province Treasurer £448, , 4, , 6 lawful Money —

Upon a Motion made Voted, unanimously That the Thanks of this Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. Isaac Barree Esq. a Member of Parliament for his singular Service to the Town in waiting upon our gracious Sovereign in Person, and presenting to his Majesty their humble and dutiful Petition for the Redress of Grievances, and that

The Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq.
M^r. Samuel Adams

John Adams Esq.
 The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq.
 D^r. Joseph Warren
 Richard Dana Esq.
 Joshua Henshaw Esq.
 Joseph Jackson Esq. &
 Benjamin Kent Esq.

be a Committee respectfully to transmit this Vote of Thanks to Coll^o. Barree as soon as may be —

Voted, unanimously, that the Thanks of [175.] The Town be and hereby are given to the Hon^{ble}. Thomas Cushing Esq. Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Fanueil Hall on Mouday the 13 Day of November Anno Domini 1769 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - - - read—

The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the other Governments as required by an Act of this Province

The Inhabitants were directed to withdraw and bring in their Votes for a Collector of Taxes for the present Year; and upon sorting them it appeared that —

M^r. Benjamin Henderson

was chosen a Collector of Taxes for the Year 1769 —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to 4 O'Clock P: M:

4. O'Clock Met according to Adjournment —

[176.] M^r. Benjamin Henderson who was chosen in the Fore-Noon a Collector of Taxes, appeared, and acquainted the Town, that having thoughts of removing into the Country, it would not be convenient for him to serve in that Office— And therefore desired the Town would be pleased to excuse his serving -- whereupon —

Voted, that M^r. Benjamin Henderson be excused from serving in the Office of a Collector of Taxes to which he had been chosen —

The Town brought in their Votes for a Collector of Taxes, and upon sorting them it appeared that

Cap^t. Samuel Dashwood

was chosen a Collector of Taxes for the Year 1769 —

Cap^t. Samuel Dashwood chosen into the Office of a Collector of Taxes came into Meeting, and prayed the Town, that he might be excused from serving in said Office — whereupon it was Voted that he be accordingly excused —

A Motion was made and seconded that the Town come into some Methods for preventing the Forestalling of the Market, which is a great and growing evil, after some debate had thereon

it was moved and carried, that the further Consideration of this Motion be referred over to the Adjournment —

Voted, that the Town Clerk be directed to procure Copys of such Bills as have at any Time been presented to the General Assembly relative to forestalling of the Market, or any other Documents respecting this practise, to be laid before the Town at the Adjournment of this Meeting —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Fryday the 17 of this Instant 10 O'Clock. Before-Noon —

[177.] Fryday November 17. 10. O'Clock A : M : Town met according to Adjournment —

The Meeting being thin and the Weather very Cold, it was Voted, that the Meeting be Adjourned to the Selectmens Chamber —

The Town taking into Consideration the great loss the Inhabitants sustain by means of the pernicious practise of forestalling the Market, which is a growing Evil, and as detrimental to the Interest of the Landholder or Farmer as it is to the People of this Metropolis

Voted, that the Gentlemen the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to take this Matter into Consideration, and to consult the best methods that may be taken to obtain at the next Session of the Great and General Assembly of this Province, such an Act as may be effectual to remedie the Evil complained of, and also to prevent the Incumbrances in the Streets near Market Square, by means of the Country People placing their Horses and Carts in said Street instead of bringing them with their Provisions into the Market Enclosures —

Voted, that this Meeting be Adjourned to Fryday next being the 24 Instant. 10. O'Clock Before-Noon

Fryday November 24 10. O'Clock — Before Noon Town met according to Adjournment —

Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the Moderator of this Meeting The Hon^{ble}. James Otis Esq. for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

[178.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified & warned in publick Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil Hall on Fryday the 8 Day of December Anno Domini 1769 —

Warrant for calling the Meeting - - - read —

Joshua Henshaw Esq. was chosen Moderator of this Meeting, and took the Oaths respecting his paying and receiving Bills of Credit of the Governments of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, as required by an Act of this Province —

The Petition of Mr. Hugh M^c. Daniel, "setting forth that he is now a Prisoner in his Majestys Goal for Non Payment of his Taxes for 1766 & 1767. amounting in the whole to £22 ,, 12 ,, 3 as well as for other Suits; and praying such relief as to the Town may seem

meet" — was read, and after considerable debate had thereon — a Motion was made, that the said Petitioner might have leave to withdraw his Petition —

M^r. Benjamin Henderson

was chosen a Collector of Taxes for the Year 1769 —

Adjourned to Wednesday December 13. 4. O'Clock P: M:

December 13. 4. O'Clock P: M: Met according to Adjournment —

[179.] Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to Joshua Henshaw Esq. the Moderator of this Meeting for dispatching the Business thereof —

Then the Meeting was dissolved.

The Report of the Committee appointed to vindicate the Town of Boston from the many false and malicious Aspersions contained in certain Letters and Memorials, written by Governor Bernard, General Gage, Commodore Hood, the Commissioners of the American Board of Customs, and others, and by them respectively transmitted to the British Ministry, which was laid before the Town and accepted, at a General Meeting of the Freeholders and Inhabitants, the 18. of October last, is as follows, — Viz^t. —

The Town of Boston having by the generous care of William Bollan Esq. formerly a very worthy Inhabitant in it, but now a Resident in London, received authentick copies of Letters Memorials &c. written by Governor Bernard, General Gage, Commodore Hood, the Commissioners of the American Board of Customs, and others, and laid before the Parliament; which contain many base insinuations and virulent charges of an high nature against the Town: The Freeholders and Inhabitants in a legal Town Meeting assembled for the purpose, have considered the same. As they have not yet been favoured with the particular vouchers: if indeed these Gentlemen have produced any to the Ministry [180.] Before whom they laid their accusations, it cannot be expected they should be enabled to make so full a vindication of the Town as otherwise they might: They have however endeavoured to extract from those writings, so far as the Town is concerned in them, and to lay before the publick their true spirit: From whence it will appear how restless, Governor Bernard & his Associates have been in their malicious intrigues to traduce not this Town and Province, alone, but the whole British American Continent. —

In his Letter to the Earl of Shelburne, dated March 19. 1768 he tells his Lordship that "he sees such an opposition to the Commissioners and their Officers, and such a defiance to the Authority by which they are appointed, continually growing, that he can no longer excuse his informing his Lordship of the detail of facts, from whence the most dangerous consequences are to be expected" — It is observable here, how artfully he connects an opposition to the Commissioners with a defiance of the authority by which they are appointed; and this with an apparent design to represent this Town as disaffected to his Majestys Government in general, than

which nothing can be more false and malicious. That the People should entertain the highest disgust of a Board, instituted to superintend a Revenue to be raised from them without their consent, which was and still is exacted with the utmost rigor, is natural; after they had so loudly as well as Justly complained of the Revenue itself, as depriving them of the very idea of liberty: But it cannot be said with the least appearance of truth that they set at defiance the Kings authority, at the very time when they were actually yielding obedience to those Revenue laws, under all the hardships of them, and were patiently waiting for the happy issue of their Just complaints, and their humble petitions to their Sovereign for the redress of their Grievances — The Commissioners had however at that time surely no reasonable grounds to expect any injury to their Persons or interruption in their Office; for they had been more than four months in the Town, without the least danger of this kind, although they had from their first arrival discovered [181.] Such an arrogance an insolence of Office as let many Persons to apprehend that they aimed at nothing less than provoking the People to such a degree of intemperance as to make an appearance of it. But being disappointed in this, more shifts & pretensions are to be sought after; and accordingly we find Mr. Bernard begining his detail: to his Lordship with telling him there had been “frequent reports of insurrections intended, in which it had been said, the Houses of one or more of the Commissioners were to be pulled down” The Governor it is to be observed relies much upon Reports in his Letters even to Ministers of State, while few if any among us ever heard of such Reports: He does not so much as attempt to make it appear to his Lordship that these frequent Reports were brought to him by Persons of credit, or that they were well grounded; and it is very much to be questioned, whether he received his intelligence from any other Persons than the Commissioners themselves, their Dependents & Expectents, the number of whom are increased to an enormous degree, more than sufficient to devour the whole Revenue, and many of them are of the most abandoned characters. But to give a colouring to these Ideas of an Insurrection, there must be something more alledged than barely that there had been frequent Reports of its being intended; and therefore his Lordship is told of an event which in fact took place as some few remember, but the story is wrought up by the Governor with all the strokes of masterly invention to serve the purpose “A number of Lads says he peraded the Town with a Drum and Horn” And what possible harm could there be in that? Why among other Houses, “they passed by the Council Chamber when he was Sitting in Council” And did they stop to insult the Governor and Council? Such a circumstance would doubtless have embellished his Excellencies Narrative. There passing by however carried the air of an insult, tho’ in all likelihood the unlucky Boys might not know that his Excellency was there — But they had “assembled before Mr. Paxtons House” and least it should be forgot his Lordship is reminded that Mr. Paxton is a “Commissioner” — And did they do Mr. Paxton the *Commissioner* any injury, yess truly “they huzzard” &

went off then they “invested M^r. Burchs House” And his Lordship is also told [182.] That M^r. Burch is “another Commissioner” — and “his Lady & Children were obliged to go out of the back door to avoid the danger that was threatned” So that they were not threatned with mischief, but with danger only. It has been usual for the Commissioners to affect an apprehension of danger to themselves and their Families, to serve the purposes they had in view. There is indeed no accounting for the real fears of Women and Children: The Ladys however can sometimes vie with their Husbands in intrigue, and are thoroughly versed in the art even of political appearance. And it is said that *all* are Politicians in this Country: Whether this Lady whom Governor Bernard has *politely* ushered into the view of the public, *really* thought herself in danger or not, it is incumbent on him to show that there were Just grounds for her apprehensions, that M^r. Burch’s House was in fact “invested” and that “the most dangerous consequences were to be expected” The World may be assured there was not the least appearance of this kind; and yet, these are M^r. Bernards own declarations to his Majestys Ministers, grounded upon vague and idle Reports, beneath one of his rank and station to take any notice of, and especially with a design to misrepresent. He expresses a surprize and surely he must counterfeit it, that this matter of “the parade with the Drum and Horn” was after all treated as the diversion of a few Boys, as it is still thought to have been by all who can remember so trifling an occurrence, except the Governor and his Adherents—the diversion of a few *innocent*, tho’ perhaps vulgar Boys, who neither did nor intended to do the least harm to them or any other persons, nor were they able to effect it if they had such a design. But after this says M^r. Bernard “it was *reported* that the *insurrection* was postponed till the 18th. of March” the idea is still kept up of a *designed* insurrection, how else could it be *postponed* and “two Persons says he, one of them M^r. Paxton a *Commissioner* was mentioned as devoted to the resentment of a Mob” It is strange no Person should have heard of all this but the Governor and his *Informers* for he tells his Lordship that “he took all the pains he could to discover the truth of this Report;” and “on the very day before he spoke with [183.] The most knowing Men he could procure,” who had heard nothing about the matter. At length however “late in the Evening he had certain advice that the Effigies were prepared, but it was too late to do any thing, & his information was of *that nature*, he could not make use of it in *public*” To induce his Lordship however to believe that the Reports of the *Insurrection* which was postponed to the 18 of March, with every circumstance as Just now related, were well grounded, he tells him as if it was designed to be the prelude to the whole, that “early in the Morning the Sheriff informed him that the Effigies of M^r. Paxton and M^r. Williams were in truth hanging upon Liberty Tree!” There was in the time of it a strong suspicion in the minds of many that their Effigies were hung up by some *particular persons* on that day (which was to be observed as a day of festivity) with a design to give a colouring to Just such a representation as Governor Bernard

now makes. There are persons here capable of playing such a game; and there are some circumstances which make it appear that such a suspicion was not groundless. Particularly it is difficult to account for Governor Bernards neglecting to give orders to prevent their being hung up after he *certainly* knew it was intended; and that he should pretend it was too late the Evening before; but especially his not chusing to make use of his information, or it may rather be supposed his Informants name in public, unless it was thro' fear of discovering the plot, is dark and unaccountable — if there was a design of this nature it must have been truly mortifying to those who were in the street, that the design was so soon frustrated; For before the Governor could meet his Council, which he had *prudently* “the day before summoned to meet” and while he was “sending round to get them together as soon as possible it might be; amidst all these *careful* preparations, the Effigies says the Governor “were taken down by some of the *Neighbours* without opposition”! There being thus, perhaps unexpectedly, taken down, is sufficient to evence the good disposition of the Inhabitants in general: That they were not in the plan of an insurrection, *whoever else might be*, and that the Governor therefore might with safety, *if he had been so inclined* make use of his information in public — It might possibly indeed have totally overthrown his design in writing this very Letter to his Lordship. — [184.] But the best improvement is to be made of every appearance: Accordingly the Governor hastens to his Council, who were then met agreeable to his appointment the *Day before*, and there he tells his Lordship he “set forth in strong terms the atrociousness of this insult; the danger of its being followed by actual violence, and the necessity there was of *providing for the peace of the Town*” However atrocious the insult might be, where could be the danger of its being followed with actual violence, when some of the Inhabitants themselves had taken down the Effigies, with at least the tacit consent of the whole Community; for it was done without the opposition expected, perhaps *hoped for*; And what necessity of providing for the peace of the Town, when the people already discovered so peaceable a disposition. It would doubtless have pleased the Governor well, if his Council had advised to some *severe* measures; such as might have afforded a former foundation for him to have represented the Town upon the eve of an insurrection, than groundless reports and informations, from his own pimps which it was not *prudent* for him to make use of in public. But “all he could say” to that purpose tho' he strove hard for it “made no impression on the Council” They say he “persevered in treating the affair as of no consequence,” as well they might; for its questionable after all, whether there was the least apprehension then of any communication even in the mind of the Governor himself whatever was his pretensions. The Commissioners however took this opportunity of “setting forth the danger *they* apprehended;” and the Governor, very readily no doubt, took the occasion to acquaint the Kings Minister, that he had received a Letter from the Commissioners “*desiring the protection of the Government.*”

Mr. Bernard proceeds in his Narrative, and entertains his Lordship with a very minute account of the celebration of the Anniversary of the repeal of the Stamp Act; and “the terrible night it produced” — to Mr. Burch *one of the Commissioners* and his Lady & Children who had moved to his House for safety; “to the Lieutenant Governor and the Sheriff of the County who were also with him” [185.] And in fine to all “those who thought themselves Objects of the popular *Fury*.” It may be here observed as in general true, that no Man has reason to fear the popular fury, but he who is conscious to himself of having done that which has exposed him to their Just resentment — The Governor himself owns that “the Selectmen of the Town” and “some others” and even the Gentlemen who dined at two Taverns near the Townhouse upon the occasion of the day “took great pains that the festivity should not produce a Riot.” There is no reason to suppose this was mentioned for the sake of giving a credit to any of those Gentlemen, but rather to insinuate that the People were so outrageously disposed as that they could not be restrained even by their own *Leaders*; for most of those whom the Governor has *honoured* with that character were present. The truth is none of them were apprehensive that *their* festivity would produce a riot; but they were careful to prevent the lighting a Bonfire, because the Governor had constantly represented that as “the signal for a Mob;” and the Joys of the Evening among the lower sort which however innocent are sometimes noisy, would of course be represented as riotous. And thus he did in fact represent it to his Lordship for he tells him that “many hundreds of People of all kinds sexes and ages, paraded the streets with yells and outcries” — That they “invested Mr. Williams House” — That “at two different times about midnight they made outcries about Mr. Paxtons house.” And tho’ after all he owns it was “out of mere wantonness” yet he says the whole made it a terrible night.” This is painting indeed, much beyond the life: But Mr. Bernard has the art in perfection. He could not however persuade even General Gage, to give it such a colouring; for the General in his letter to Lord Hillsborough dated Boston the 31st. of October 1768. tells his Lordship quite otherwise; and that “according to the best information he had been able to procure, the disturbance in March (which was this very instance) far from being “terrible as the Governor represents it, was in truth “trifling.” This being the account given by one of the principal servants of the Crown in America, and who has discovered himself far from being partial *in favor* of the Town, it is needless to add any thing further on this head — Trifling as indeed this “disturbance” was, such improvements were made of it by Governor Bernard & others, that it occasioned the ordering two Regiments from Halifax to this Town for a purpose for which the military power was certainly never designed; [186.] A very dangerous purpose, and abhorrent to the British Constitution and the spirit of a free Government, namely to support the Civil Authority — A measure which has caused continual terror to his Majestys peaceable subjects here, and has been productive of more disturbance & confusion

than has been known in the memory of any now living, or than is recorded by any historian, even the most *partial* against this country.—

We shall now take notice of Governor Bernards Letter to the Earl of Hillsborough, dated Boston June 11 1768, wherein he gives his Lordship an account “of a great riot that happened in this Town the preceding Evening.” and it must be confessed there was a riot on that evening, which is by no means to be Justified. It was however far from being so great a one as the Governor represents it to be— The Collector and Comptroller of the Customs indeed represent it as a “numerous Mob” but they being particularly interested, their fears might deceive them.— It was not a numerous Mob; nor was it of long continuance, neither was there much mischief done. It was occasioned by the unprecedented & lawful manner of seizing the Vessel by the Collector and Comptroller: And considering their illegal proceedings in making the seizure, attended with the most irritating circumstances which occasioned the Mob — the intolerably haughty behavior which the Commissioners who ordered this seizure, had constantly before discovered toward the people — the frequent threats which had been given out, that the Town should be put under a military government, and the *armed* force actually employed as a prelude to it, it cannot be wonder’d at, that in a populous Town, such high provocations, and the sudden exertion of lawful power, should excite the resentments of some persons beyond the bounds of reason, and carry them into excess.— We cannot state the circumstances of this affair with greater impartiality, than by reciting the Sentiments of his Majestys Council after two days enquiry and consideration, in their own expressions Viz: — “His Excellency having laid before the Board a representation of some transactions relating to and in consequence of the disorders in the town of Bostown on the evening of the 10 of June last, the Board [187.] The Board think it necessary *in Justice to the Town* and Province, and in vindication of themselves, to make some observations thereon, and to give a fuller Representation than is contained in the paper laid before the Board. “With regard to the said disorders it is to be observed that they were occasioned by the making a seizure (in a manner unprecedented) in the Town of Boston on the said tenth of June, a little before Sunset when a Vessel was seized by several of the Officers of the Customs; and immediately after on a signal given by one of said Officers, in consequence of a preconcerted plan, several armed Boats from the Romney Man of War took possession of her, cut her fasts and carried her from the Wharff where she lay into the Harbour, along side the Romney which occasioned a number of people to be collected, some of whom from the violence & unprecedentedness of the procedure with regard to the taking away of the said Vessel, & the reflection thereby implied upon the Inhabitants of the Town as disposed to rescue any seizure that might be made, took occasion to abuse & insult the said Officers, and afterwards to break some of the windows of their dwelling houses, and to commit other disorders. Now tho’ the Board have the utmost abhorrence of all such disor-

derly proceedings, and would by no means attempt to Justify them, they are obliged to mention the occasion of them, in order to shew, that however culpable the said disorderly persons were, the Officers who seized, or those by whose orders such unusual & violent measures as were pursued in seizing and taking away the said vessel, were not faultless: It being highly probable that no such disorders would have been committed if the vessel had not been with an armed force, and with many circumstances of insult and threats, carried away from the wharff." —

The Council further say, "with regard to what happened on the 10 of June it seems to have sprung wholly from the persons who complain of it, by the plan laid and the orders given for making the Seizure aforesaid; and carrying it away by an armed force. Which circumstances together with the time of day of seizing the Vessel, makes it seem probable that an uproar was hoped for and intended to be occasioned by the manner of procedure in making the seizure."

From this impartial state of the matter, it must [188.] Evidently appear to every candid mind, that the opposition was made, not at all to the seizing of the Vessel by the Officers of the Customs but wholly to the manner in which it was secured; and that if it had been done in the usual manner as the Council afterwards said, "it wou'd have remained secure in the hands of the Officers" — this corresponds with the Commissioners own account; for they say in their letter to Governor Bernard, June 12 that they received a verbal message from the people to the following purpose, "that if the Sloop seized was brought back to Mr. Hancock's Wharff, upon security given to answer the prosecution, the Town might be kept quiet." But this pacifick proposal though brought to them as they acknowledge "by a person of credit," they expressly declare "appeared to them as a menace," and it was in fact one of their very reasons for requesting the Governor to give directions that they might be received into the Castle for protection — So totally regardless were they of the peace of the Town, and so excessively fond of being thought by others as important as they fancied themselves to be, that when this reasonable and timely proposal was brought to them even by a person of Credit in *their own* esteem, they haughtily reply'd "that they gave no answers to *verbal* messages" which plainly indicated either a wantonness of power in them beyond all bounds, or the hopes if not the intention of a further uproar. —

Governor Bernard tells his Lordship that this Riot "had very bad consequences," which is undoubtedly true: The exaggerated accounts which he and the Commissioners gave of it to the Ministry, and their taking occasion to represent the Town itself as in a state of disobedience to all law and authority, and indeed the whole Continent as ripe of a revolt, were attended with the worst of consequences to the Town. The Commissioners say in plain terms that "there had been a long and extensive plan of resistance to the authority of Great Britain" and that "the Seizure referred to" had hastened the people of Boston to the commission of actual violence sooner than was intended." Such inflamatory

representations as these had the effects which they had long wished for ; and induced the Ministry to order two other Regiments to this Town ; the consequence of which if they or any [189.] Of them are continued, it is to be feared, far from reconciling the people to the present measures of Administration, will only increase their discontent, and even alienate their Affections. —

The Governor in the Postscript to his Letter June 13 mentions his having intelligence from the Commissioners of some *particulars* from whence *they concluded*, that they were immediately exposed to further violences, and desired protection at the Castle — This intelligence is contained in their letter of June 12 Just now mentioned, wherein they take upon themselves to charge the Government with having used no measures for securing the peace of the Town, alledging in general terms that “there was the strongest reason to expect further violences,” and they further say, that “his Excellency himself had acquainted them that *Bo ton was no place of safety for them.*” Here we see that the intelligence which the Governor represents to his Lordship as having been received by him from the Commissioners, he first communicated to them ; and thereupon they grounded their pretended fears in their Letter to *him*, and desire the protection of the Government. This is all of a peace, and may serve to explain the *frequent rumors* of an insurrection, mentioned in a former letter, and from what quarter these frequent rumours came. It shows the Combination, and the settled design, of the Governor and the Commissioners to blacken the character of the Town ; and how dexterously they can play into each other hands — The Governor the next Day June 13 wrote to the Commissioners, and acquainted them, that having communicated their Letter of the twelfth to the Council, they desired him to inform them that during the sitting of the Council on Saturday Morning, there was no reason at all given to expect further violences, and that there was no apprehension either in the *Governor* or the Council of an immediate danger.” It is incumbent on the Governor or his friend *if he has any*, to reconcile this with what he had before told the Commissioners “that Boston was no place of safety for them.” It seems Governor Bernard was perpetually teizing the Council with the Commissioners vague reports of an insurrection, and of the danger they were in ; and indeed it appears to be the main point in view to persuade the Council if possible into the belief of it, or if not, to form a complaint to the Ministry that they were negligent of their duty in not advising to proper measures for the [190.] Protection of the Commissioners ; and from thence to enforce a necessity of military force to restore and support Government in Boston — Why did he not lay before the Governor the *particulars* which he tells his Lordship he had received from the Commissioners, from whence *they concluded* that they were exposed to further violences ? This we hear nothing of ; perhaps the intelligence, like that which he mentions in a former Letter “was of such a nature as that he could not make use of it in publick.” He indeed tells the Commissioners that he had informed the Council of their *present* apprehensions of further violences, and that they were then taking the same into consider-

ation." — But he should have fairly represented this matter to the Commissioners, and told them that the Council had already taken the same into consideration, and come to a conclusion as in fact they had; for by their own minutes we find that "the matter being *fully debated* it appeared to the Board, that there was no immediate danger of fresh disturbances" they at the same time advised that the matter should be laid before the General Court then sitting, and postponed the consideration of it by them *as of Council to the Governor*, till the effect of such a proposal should be known. All this the Governor knew; how then could he consistently say they were *then* taking into consideration? He tells Lord Hillsbrough that "he was against the business being laid before the General Court but was obliged to give it up"; and that "he had many objections to the measure." We knew very well that the drawing this matter into open daylight, would effectually defeat his design; and that the intention of bringing the Council, if possible to Join with the Governor in requiring the military force, or accusing them of negligence in case they did not, would thereby be intirely frustrated — The removing the business to the General Court, he tells his Lordship was however, upon one *consideration* not "intirely to his dissatisfaction" for he says it was not then in a great measure "taken out of his hands"; and he concludes that "as he cannot conduct this business as it ought to be," or rather as he chose it should be, "it may be best for him to have but little hand in it." — It may not be amiss here to recite the declaration of his Majestys Council at a full Board on the 29th. of July, six Weeks after the Commissioners *voluntary* exile to the Castle in consequence of these *pretended* apprehensions of [191.] Further violences. The Council say "the Commissioners were not obliged to quit the Town; there never had been any insult ever offered to them; their quitting the Town was a voluntary act of their own; we do not apprehend there was any sufficient ground for their quitting it, and when they had quitted it, and were at the Castle, there was no occasion for Men of War to protect them." Such an authority will no doubt be deemed sufficient to vindicate the Town from this aspersion; especially as the Council had then had time coolly to recollect the matter: As they had born their full testimony against the disorders, and taken every step which belonged to their department, to bring the Offenders to condign punishment: But more especially as that very Board had always before Supported the Governors measures to the utmost extent that their consciences would allow, and many times against the general sentiments of the people, for which they had gained the Governors applause, and his particular recommendation to his Majestys Minister, and he himself could at this time have no other exception to any part of their conduct, but their opposition to his *favorite* plan to introduce a military Government into the Town, without the least colour of necessity, and thereby to break through the mounds, and tear up the very foundation of the civil constitution. —

The Governor in his Letter to Lord Hillsbrough of the 14th June being resolved to give his Lordship an exact *detail* of every

occurrence "from whence the most dangerous consequences are to be expected," take occasion to mention, "a paper stuck up on Liberty Tree" this paper he has said in his letter of the 13 contained "an invitation of the Sons of liberty to meet at six O'Clock to clear the land of the vermin which were come to devour them" A very innocent if not a landable proposal, for which the Country should think itself obliged to them, to be sure if they could have effected their design. But in this letter it is called "a violent and virulent invitation to rise *that night* to clear the Country of the Commissioners and their Officers to avenge themselves of the Custom house Officers, and put one of them to death!" And still more alarming, "there were also some indecent threats against the Governor!" Could the Governor think that by the Vermin that were come to devour the land they meant his Excellency and the Commissioners? But perhaps the mind of the [192.] Sheriff who brought this information to the Governor was some what agitated with the fears of an insurrection; and moreover, we may presume that he had not seen the paper himself, but took it from *report*, in conformity to the example of the Governor, who believed or pretended to believe every word of it, till he had the *mortifying* sight of the true contents of this *very important* paper; of which the following as he at length tells his Lordship is "an exact copy," viz'. — Boston June 13 1768 The Sons of liberty request all those who in this time of oppression and distraction wish well to and would promote the peace, good order and security of the Town and Province, to assemble at Liberty Hall under Liberty Tree on Tuesday the 14 Ins^l., at 10 O'Clock precisely. — It might have been supposed that so harmless a thing would have given offence to none. In the first place the matters alledged in it were confessedly true: That this was a time of oppression, the people all felt: That it was a time of distraction, the Governor and the Commissioners loudly proclaimed: A design then at such a time to promote the peace good order & security of the Town, was at least unexceptionable. But the Governor complains that "it was not considered as an implication of danger." Strange would it have been indeed if so salutary a proposal as the promoting the peace good order and security of the Town had been thus considered. "Neither, says he, was the impropriety of the sons of liberty appointing a meeting to secure the peace of the town, when the governor and council were sitting upon that business, and *seemly to little purpose*, taken much notice of." but surely if the Governor and Council could be supposed to be setting upon *such business*, at *such a time*, and *seemly to little purpose*, there could be no great impropriety in other peoples undertaking. But without adopting by any means the measure, is not here a striking instance of the disposition of Governor Bernard, and some others to receive with the greatest avidity the most exaggerated accounts of every trifling occurrence that has happened, and without any enquiry, to paint them to the Ministry in the deepest colours! Behold a Meeting the professed design of which was to promote the peace, good order and security of the Town, and that in open day light, represented to the Kings Minister as a Meeting de-

signed to be held at Six O'Clock, near Sun-Set, in one letter; and in another the next Day. "a most violent & virulent invitation to rise that night?" and [193.] Clear the Country of the Commissioners, — threaten the Governor and commit murder"! In consequence of which he tells the Council, there is "no time to enquire into the particulars of the former riot." They are to be hurried to measures to provide for *the peace of the Town,*" and to prevent "new disturbances premeditated" and "immediately threatened;" and his Lordship is to be forthwith informed of it. — Certainly every candid person will from hence be inclined to believe all that Governor Bernard relates to the prejudice of this Town, or any particular persons, with great discretion. —

His Letter of the 16 of June, for he seemed to be almost every day employ'd in writing his "Detail" — of *common reports,* gives the Earl of Hillsborough an Account of "the Meeting at Liberty Tree in pursuance of the printed notice." And after entertaining his Lordship with a particular tho' awkward and inconsistent description of the Tree, the vast height of the flag staff, and the design of hoisting the flag staff, and the design of hoisting the flag, namely "for a signal," which to be sure must be a discovery quite new to his Lordship, he proceeds to say; that "at least 4000 Men assembled," that "the principal Gentleman attended to engage the lower people to concur in measures for peace & quiet." which was the professed end of their meeting — that "one of the Selectman was chosen Moderator or Chairman" — that they adjourned to the Town Hall" for the accommodation of so large a number. And there it being "objected that they were not a legal meeting" they adjourned to the Afternoon," he should have said, broke up; and the Selectmen instead of "legalizing the Assembly" as it is odly expressed, called a Town Meeting agreeable to the directions of the law, to meet in the Afternoon. All this was certainly an innocent proceeding, and the Governor himself, it is presumed did not think otherwise, for it happens for once, that he makes no particular remarks upon it; and if it should be said of them, that they met seemingly to little purpose, it might be said truly enough; but it is to be remembred, that another Assembly, with their Chairman at their head, if the Governor's ludicrous account of the Meeting of that very respectable body could be credited, might in that respect keep them in countenance. — But innocent as it was, the Governor did not choose it should be thought that *he* viewed it in that light, and therefore told the Council, & his Lordship afterwards that "had it been the first business of the kind, he should have asked their advice, whether he should not send to the General for [194.] Troops: And to show his own excessive fondness for so arbitrary and violent a measure, he adds, that "he was ready to do it. if any one Gentleman would propose it"! —

The Governor then proceeds to give a *detail* of the Meeting of the Town in the Afternoon; in which he tells his Lordship that "many wild and violent proposals were made." It ought here to be observed that Governor Bernard constantly represents bodys of Men, even the most respectable, by proposals made by Individuals,

which have been misrepresented by Pimps and Parasites, and perhaps aggravated by himself, instead of allowing them to stand or fall by their own conclusions — Can any thing be more base, more contrary to equity than this? — What should we think of the most respectable Corporations at home — What even of both Houses of Parliament, if they were to be Judged of by every motion that has been made, or every expression that has dropped from Individuals in the warmth of debates? If it had been true that such proposals had been made, nay, if measures that could not have been altogether Justified, had been even adopted by the Town, at a time when every art had been practised to irritate the people and inflame their minds, the candid part of mankind would have been ready to overlook it. — The Governor has often been observed to discover an aversion to free Assemblies: No wonder then that he should be so particularly disgusted at a legal Meeting of the Town of Boston, where a noble freedom of speech is ever expected and maintained: An Assembly of which it may be Justly said, to borrow the language of the ancient Roman, with a little variation, *Sentire quae volent et quae sentiat dicere licet*, They think as they please, and speak as they think. — Such an Assembly has ever been the dread — often the scourge of Tyrants — But these “wild and violent proposals,” which no one can recollect but the Governor, and perhaps his Informers, it seems were “warded off,” as the Governor is pleased to express it, from whence it may be supposed that prudence, directed at this Meeting, “originated & composed as he says it was” — By these expressions it is conceived, he would intimate to his Lordship that it was both illegal and tumultuous; and if that was his real intention, the insinuation was both false & injurious. — [195.] The Meeting was “originated” as the law directs, and nothing was there concluded upon according to the Governors own account, but the appointment of a Committee, which he himself says “in general was very respectable,” to wait on him “with a petition;” the receiving his answer, as he is pleased to say, with “universal approbation”! writing a letter to a friend, & voting such Instructions as they thought proper to their representatives, after which he tells his Lordship they “broke up quietly and the Meeting ended.” But notwithstanding this quiet and as may be concluded by the Governors account of it, *coalizing* Town Meeting, which consisted of so large a number, and among whom he himself was so “popular” that even the Moderator declared that he really believed he was a well wisher to the Province.” (Thus saith Governor Bernard, but no one remembers or believes it) yet all this will not avail to soften his mind or alter his intention. And altho’ he tells his Lordship “the Romney and a Sloop of 16 Guns Just come in will compleat the command of all the approaches to the Castle, and other Ships of War are expected, so that the security of the Commissioners is effectually provided for”; yet the *favorite point* will not be carried, till the long wished for Troops arrive, to enforce his arbitrary Designs, and suppress the spirit of liberty. And now is the time, if ever, to press the matter: Every hand therefore must be set to work, and nothing will serve the cause like continually holding up the Idea of an *In-*

surrection. Accordingly we find one of the Auxiliaries, whose Letter tho' anonymous, has credit enough to appear in the list laid before Parliament, says "It is my opinion that the promoters of the present evils are ready to unmask, and openly to discover their long and latent design to REBEL" — and — "involve this Country in blood and *horror!* Another anonymous writer, who is said to be "well acquainted with the state of the Town of Boston," says, that "He observes a sourness in the minds of the people in *general*, and adds, he that runs may read, that without *speedy interposition* a great storm will arise." — The Collector and Comptroller of the Customs mention *with deep concern*, as they affect to express themselves "that a *general spirit of Insurrection* prevails, not only in the Town, but throughout *the whole Provinces.*" The Commissioners themselves in their letter to General Gage tell him "that it is utterly impossible to carry on the business [196.] Of the Revenue in Boston, from the outrageous behavior of the People" They acquaint the General "of the alarming state of things in the Town and desire him to *give them protection.*" And tho' Governor Bernard when not so much on his guard, or perhaps under some little compunction of mind in his letter to the Commissioners, June 13 gently chides them for their ill grounded fears, and tells them "he is *very sorry* that they think themselves so much in danger in Boston (which he had before said was no place of safety for them.) as to think it unsafe for them to reside there" notwithstanding all this, yet in the letter we are now considering, which was written nearly at the same time, he positively assures his Lordship that if there is not a REVOLT, the Leaders must falsify their words & change their purposes. Perhaps he would have been more consistent if he had imagined these letters would ever have seen the light. He concludes his letter with mentioning a few more papers stuck up on the Town House. — No evidence however appears to have accompanied all these heavy charges upon a whole Community: But Governor Bernard and others seem to have conducted their proscriptions as if they could have even foreseen, that the bold assertions of persons apparently inimical to a Country, anonymous Letters, Street conversation picked up by Pimps and Spies, and Papers stuck up by no one knows whom on a publick Building, would be of so much weight as to influence the measures of Administrations! Can any Person believe this a Just representation, when Governor Bernard with all his Industry and *aïd* has not been able to furnish proof that any Body or Combination of Men, or even a single Person had incurred a legal penalty, if we except the disturbances that happened on March and June already considered. —

The Governor in his letter of the 9 of July informs his Lordship of a manoeuvre, as he calls it, of the Sons of Liberty; a number of them going out of Boston at the close of a certain day in parties, and meeting on each side of a House in Roxbury, which Mr. Robinson (and his Lordship must be informed that he also was one of the Commissioners) had lately hired with an attention to surprize him and prevent his escape; but he being at the Castle, *where the Commissioners had been driven for safety*, they did

nothing but plunder his Fruit Trees. This is a very solemn account indeed [197.] But he never laid this "manoeuvre of the Sons of Liberty," *extraordinary* as it was, before the Council, which he never failed to do on like occasions; thinking possibly, that respectable Body might be of opinion, that a Gentleman of any political party may be supposed to have his Orchard or Fruit Gardens robbed by *liquorish Boys*, without making a formal representation before his Majesty's first Minister of State. As the Governor will still have it that "the Commissioners were *driven* to the Castle *for safety*," we take occasion to observe here, that it was notorious, that they frequently landed on the Main, and made excursions into the Country; visiting the Lieuv^t. Governor and other Gentlemen at their Seats, where it would have been easy to have seized them if any injury had been intended them; which as his Majesty's Council very Justly have observed, "demonstrated the insincerity of their declarations," as it did those of the Governor "that they immured themselves at the Castle for safety." —

Another part of the detail in this Letter is the Rescue of a Vessel which had been seized by the Custom house Officers. It seems by Governor Bernard's Account, it had been "thought proper to try an experiment" for says he, "When the Sloop was Seized which occasioned the Riot, and in consequence of which the Commissioners were obliged to leave the Town, the greatest part of the resentment was expressed against the putting her under the care of the Man of War" which was very true, and he might have also said, the making the seizure with an *armed* force, and therefore he adds, "when the Schooner was seized it was left at the Wharff under no other care but two Custom house Officers," in hopeful, no doubt, if not certain expectation that the rescue would be made, from whence it might possibly be made to appear that the resentment against the proceedings of the Custom house Officers in the former instance, as being violent and illegal, was mere pretence. The Rescue was made, and it was universally displeasing to the Town. The Governor says, "this very Molasses was the next day returned" and tells his Lordship that "the Selectmen of the Town sent for the Master of the Schooner," and "ordered him to return it under pain of the displeasure of the Town;" which is a gross misrepresentation of the matter, and artfully designed for to prepare for the subsequent ungenerous remark that "all Government is now in the hands of the People." A good Magistrate would have rejoiced in this instance of the [198.] Peoples voluntarily affording their aid in the recovery of the Kings due which had been rescued from him, without torturing his invention to find an illnature'd construction for it. But Governor Bernard is disturbed that "the humor of the people" which he says this was done "to please" should ever coincide with their duty to the Sovereign — The voluntary Association of the People to promote peace and good order, he had before said "carried an implication of danger" to the Government; and now when they seem to unite in taking measures for the execution of a law, although in its nature disagreeable to the People, why truly "the Government is in the hands of the People, and not of those

deputed by the King, or under his authority." But if the People had a view to save their own reputation in this peice of service to the Crown, as the Governor intimates surely he will not say it was "ill judged," or "ill timed." The truth is they had a *particular* view at this time to prevent Governor Bernard, improving the rescue, which they were in no sort concerned in, to the prejudice of the Town, as had been his constant practice in other cases and as it now evidently appears he intended: And it was certainly a wise precaution; tho' a candid mind will by no means exclude any other good intentions.— We cannot forbear taking notice herewith *freedom* of a very extraordinary assertion of Governor Bernards — in this letter to his Lordship, that "every seizure made, or attempted to be made on Land in Boston for these three Years past, before these two Instances had been violently rescued or prevented" — An assertion so notoriously false, that few Men could have made it without blushing and we may suppose even Governor Bernard himself could not have made it had he apprehended it would ever have become publick.* The Officers of the Customs themselves will not venture to [199.] Affirm it. If the assertion is true, his Majestys Council must have been egregiously mistaken when they declare that "no instance can be Aleged of any Vessel seized, or any seizure whatever in the Town of Boston being rescued out of the hands of the Officers, except what took place here on the 8th. of July Instant, when a quantity of Molasses (this very Molasses) having been seized, was taken away from the Officers who had charge of it; which unwarrantable proceeding being universally condemned, the Molasses was very soon returned," As this base story was *invented* and told by Governor Bernard, with the sole intention of casting an odium upon the Town, we have reason to expect his retraction of it; or he must bear the reproaches of an highly injured Community, and the Just censures of all impartial Men. After these false and injurious assertions, he thinks it a proper time to acquaint his Lordship, that the one Regiment which had the flattering expectation of, from a letter he had received from General Gage, "tho' it might secure the Castle would not be sufficient to *awe the Town*; which was in effect asking for *more*. Thus we see the means which Governor Bernard and his Confederates have been incessantly using to accomplish their designs; and strange as it may in some better times hereafter, these means and these very Instruments at length prevail'd to introduce a military power into the Town — A power which is dayly trampling on our laws, contemning our Religion, and invading the Rights both of Persons and property — A power by which a truly loyal & but long abused and highly provoked Community, is not

* It is remarkable that Governor Bernard not long before these letters were made public, expressed to a certain Gentleman, his earnest wish that ye. people of this Province could have a sight of all his letters to the Ministry, being assured that they would thereby be fully convinced that he was a friend to the Province — Indeed he made a declaration to the same purpose in one of his publick speeches in the House of Representatives. Upon ye. arrival of the letters however, he discovered as some say a certain paleness, & complain'd of as a hardship that his letters wrote in *confidence*, should be exposed to the view of ye. Public — A striking proof of the baseness, as well as the perfidy of his Heart. —

indeed *awed* but distressed — And were it not for the certain advice, that our humble and dutiful supplications have at length reached the Royal hand, we should be reduced even to a state of desperation!

Governor Bernard in his letter to Lord Hillsborough of the 16th. Septem^r. begins with acquainting his Lordship with the *prudent* methods he took, to communicate the expectation of the Troops *gradually* for fear of certain ill effects that might arise from their sudden arrival. And no wonder that the Man who had long been representing a whole Country as REBELS; & had been *one* of the *principal* Instruments in bringing such a curse upon it, should at that Juncture be under some apprehensions of danger —

[200.] In his last letter he talks of his *personal courage* and tells Lord Hillsborough that “ he did not feel his own *firmness of mind* to fail”: He also mentions “ the *spirited conduct* of the *Lieut^t. Governor*; and with pleasure assures his Lordship that “ he could depend upon *his* resolution and steadiness as much as he could upon *his own*”; from whence he concludes that “ there would be no want of a *due* enforcement of the laws to the correction of the present abuses” — But *now* he seems to be conscious of fear! Happy was it for him, that he was in the hands of a People; who attended to the dictates of sound policy, religion and loyalty — He first opens this matter to one of the Council, and tells him that “ he had private advice that Troops were ordered hither, but that he had no public orders about it himself”; and he observes that “ it was quickly very thoroughly circulated all over the Town ” and the Faction immediately took the alarm ” By this he would insinuate that the better sort of the People and even the generality of the Town were well enough pleased with it. If the Faction *only* took the alarm, the generality of the Town must have been included in the Faction: For in truth, he had the mortification of setting the whole Body of the People, saving his own very few adherents who were properly an *implacable* Faction, thoroughly awakened and alarmed at the sudden expectation of a military force, which had indeed been often threatened by this Faction, but few realized it before — And now the Pimps were all immediately sent out, who no doubt were rewarded in proportion to their success in the business; and the Governor soon had intelligence brought to him of the conversation of “ *private Companies* ” And that in one “ it was the general opinion to raise the Country and oppose the Troops ”; in another “ it was resolved to Surprize & take the Castle.” How ridiculously impertinent must he appear in the Eyes of Men of sense, after all to acquaint his Lordship that “ he does not relate these accounts as *certain* facts.” To what purpose then did he relate them at all! It seems that he was full as *designing* in communicating to Lord Hillsborough, as he was in communicating to the People, tho’ his designs were different: For the People were not to be told the *whole* that the Governor knew to be true; but his Lordship was to be induced to [201.] Believe *more*:— In either case if the purpose could be served, Sincerity was out of the question. Uncertain however as these Facts were, his Lordship was informed that they were yet

“believed” ! Strange as they were said to be facts of yesterday, that no one, after all the pains that had been taken, could make them certain ; and if they were not to be made certain, stranger still that any in their senses should *believe* them. Some Men are very apt to believe what they *wish* to be true : This no doubt is the present case — And besides we are to remember, that more than two Regiments were wanted to *awe the Town* ; and if the Governor could boldly say, that these reports vague as they were, had obtained any credit here, no matter by whom believed, they would have some weight. But he must be presumed to think very injudiciously of the head or the heart of a *Minister of State*, to suppose that such an undigested and ridiculous account of things would influence his measures. Nothing we should think but the great candor which has ever appeared in Lord Hillsborough towards Governor Bernard, could have prevented his severest censure — But admitting they were true, which was by no means the case, certainly the Town is not accountable for what one of his Excellencies Spies might have overheard in “ a private Company.” — Let us then consider the account the Governor gives of the publick conduct of the Town, at a Meeting legally called on Monday September 12. And first he says, “ at the Hall the Faction appeared surrounded with all its Forces ” ; and an appearance *very decent* at least, it seems they were capable of making according to the Governor’s account. For he tells his Lordship, “ a set of speeches, by the Chiefs of the Faction, and *no one else* followed in such *order & method*, that every thing both as to *matter* and *order* seemed to have been preconcerted ; ” while alas ! the “ very few principal Gentlemen there,” the better sort in the Governor’s estimation, appeared “ as curious perhaps *anxious* Spectators ” ! Where is now the little remains of an *expiring Faction*, which he had so often told the World of ? The tone is wonderfully altered ; the Body of the People are now *truly* represented as united firm and regular in their opposition to his measures, while his own *few Partizans*, [202.] Who yet must be stiled “ *the principal Gentlemen*,” tho’ expecting every moment to be “ surrounded with all *their* Forces,” appeared inquisitive and *anxious* for the event ! But nothing was resolved upon, says the Governor, but to put two questions to me, and appoint a general Committee to consider and report.” The main question to the Governor was. Whether he had certain expectation of the Troops ? To which he answered with an artful ambiguity, that he had private advice, but no publick orders about it. His private advice might have been *certain* ; or he might have had *authentick* publick advice, without public orders about it, for General Gage was Commander in Chief of the Kings Forces. Being however somewhat pressed by the Committee who waited on him, he discovered a duplicity for which he has a peculiar talent, and said that he would not have the Town *certainly* expect the Troops ; altho’ he then expected them himself, & fully believed they were on their passage from Halifax, and in this letter to Lord Hillsborough he tells him, that it was at that very time his attention to communicate these expectations of them *gradually* His account of diverse speeches made in the

Town Meeting is as uncertain, and with regard to some of them as untrue, as the intelligence he had received of the *private conversation*: Perhaps it was carried to him by the same hands, as some of *his* principal Gentlemen were there. The Resolves and determinations of this Meeting, as the Governor says, were published to the World; and they remain on the Records of the Town that Posterity may Judge of them. The Town has Seen no reason since to revoke these Resolves, notwithstanding they have been sentenced as “very dangerous Resolves procured by mad People.” by so exquisite a Judge in matters which regard Civil Government, as well as so polite a Gentleman as General Gage. The Governor himself has been since respectfully requested by the Selectmen, in behalf of the Town to shew in what respect the Resolves & proceedings of this very Meeting had militated with law; but he declined it, because he was notable to do it. Spirited indeed they were, but not too spirited for the times — When the Constitution, *threatned* is the principles of the [203.] Constitution must if ever be asserted and supported — the Governor indeed takes notice of our claim to a certain clause in the Bill of Rights as “a large stride” But as we are free British Subjects, we claim all that security against arbitrary power, to which we are entitled by the Law of God, and nature as well as the British Constitution. And if a standing Army may not be posted upon the Subject in one part of the Empire in a time of peace, without their consent, there can be no reason why it should in any other; for all British Subjects are or *ought to be* alike free. —

The Governor in a former letter to Lord Hillsburrrough mentioned the Selectmens ordering the Arms belonging to the Town to be brought out and cleaned; and to make something of the story, he told him that “that they were exposed some hours at the Town House”: In this letter he says “these Arms were deposited in Chests, and laid upon the floor of the Town Hall to remind the People of the use of them Could any one besides Governor Bernard, descend to so pittiful an artifice as to insinuate that these Arms were cleaned, exposed to the People, and finally laid on the floor of the Hall at this Juncture, to induce his Lordship to believe, that these were the Forces with which the Faction appeared “surrounded,” and that the Selectmen who are the principal City Majestrates, and the leading part of the Town itself, were actually in the plan which he had Just before mentioned, as concerted in one of the private Meetings “to raise the Country and oppose the Troops”; And that these Arms deposited in Chests were laid on the floor of the Hall “to remind the People of the use of them” —, and inspirit them for the purpose of opposing the Troops. Whereas the simple truth of the matter is, these Arms had for many Years been deposited in Chests and laid on the floor of the Town Hall; but the Hall itself being burnt a few Years ago, the Arms were saved from the Ruins and carried to the Town House: After the Hall was Rebuilt the Town ordered their removal there; and tho’ it happened to be done at a Juncture when the Governor and his Confederates talked much of the Towns *revolting*, there was no other thought in the minds of any,

except the Governor and a few more, and it is a question whether even he, or they, really thought otherwise, but to lodge them in their *usual* & proper place [204.] We cannot help taking notice how very exact the Governor sometimes is even in the choice of words, in his “detail of facts” to a Minister of a state: An instance of which we have now before us, wherein he mentions to his Lordship his inclosing “a blank Copy of the *Precept* (as he is pleased to call it) which the Selectmen have used,” it is a wonder it was not *issued*, for that would have made it appear more *formal* “in calling together the Convention”; from whence he takes occasion to say it was “a daring assumption of the Royal authority.” Here then is the treason and misprision of treason, or a part of it at least, about which there has been such an eclat of late; for which the Governor tells his Lordship in this *detai*’ of the Convention every well wisher of the Province, of whom he is doubtless one, “most devoutly desires the Charter may be forfeited” — and some of the Leaders were to be sent to England to be tried there — Nay his Lordship or some one of his Majestys Servants is informed that they expected it themselves for Commander Hood in one of his short & pithy Epistles, says, “they were alarm’d and expected nothing less than a Voyage to England against their inclinations,” but his Lordships *deep* penetration might have discovered that this “Precept to call a Convention” was nothing more than a *friendly circular letter* to the Selectmen of the several Towns in the Province *desiring* them to *propose* to their respective Towns the sending a Committees, to Join with those of the Town of Boston, in consulting measures to promote peace and good order; which was so far from an assumption of the Royal authority, that it assumed not the least shadow of any *authority* whatever — This very innocent measure of the Town in “calling together a Convention” as the Governor expresses it, which he so highly sensures, and upon the promoters of which he loudly calls for the National vengeence, was most certainly attended with all the happy effects for which it was proposed: For the general sentiments of the Province was thereby Collected, which could not otherwise have been done; the Governor having arbitrarily dissolved the General Assembly, and positively refused to call another, against the dutiful Petition of the Convention itself, as well as of the Town [205.] Even before they proposed or thought of it — The Several Towns having an opportunity of conferring together by their Committees, had the same effects which followed a certain *circular letter*, which formerly so perplexed his Excellency; for the People became the more united in the measures proper to be taken for the preservation of their common rights at so critical and alarming a Juncture. And tho’ the Governor says “at the Fountain head it was intended to provoke resentment,” yet to this very measure have been imputed, in some small degree very Justly or not, it becomes not this Town to say, that *prudence* as well as firmness and perseverance in the cause of liberty, of which it is hoped this Country will ever avail itself, even Governor Bernard cannot but own that the Convention discovered “moderation” and a “temperate conduct,” which is far

from being inconsistent with *true fortitude*: But he is not willing that the Town of Boston should “assume the merit of it.” They are very far from a disposition thus to assume: They are content to have that share of merit which their beloved Country Men are willing they should have. And tho’ he would insinuate to his Lordship with his usual cunning, that there was at the Convention an essential difference of sentiments between the Town and the Country; and that “many of the *Deputies* came down with a disposition and Instructions to prevent the Bostoners (as he elegantly expresses himself) involving the Province in the consequences of their own mad devises”; and that many of them “were from the beginning sensible of the impropriety and danger of this proceeding,” his Lordship as they printed what they did, has no doubt been since convinced, that they were *united* in their Sentiments of the common cause —

But this very peaceable proposal, the Governor thinks exceeded the “Great Rebellion when it was at the highest, and the confusion arising therefrom most urgent for some extraordinary measures.” Here is the burden of the Song — *extraordinary measures!* And surely his Lordship must propose some very *extraordinary measures* to chastise a *greater* than the great Rebellion, even when it was at the highest — Not content with pouring forth this torrent of Zeal, the Governor still presses upon his Lordship; and assures him that “unless it is prevented by some power without, not only the [206.] Crown Officers, will be excluded, but every ingredient of Royalty” in the Government of the Province will totally be destroyed — What Rhetorick! to arrest his Lordships attention, and hurry him on to conclude with the Governor, that “the force already ordered by General Gage viz^t. — two Regiments will not be sufficient.” — In order still to heighten the Ideas of an intended Rebellion, the Governor adds “it is now a great question whether the Kings Troops will be suffered to enter the Town or not.” And “the design against the Castle is now so well known that it is probable that the very names of the People who were enrolled for that service to the number of five hundred, or of the Chiefs of them will be discovered.” It is pritty remarkable the Governor in the former part of this letter informed his Lordship, that he did not relate *this very* account as a certain fact; his Spies must then make very quick rotations, and the intelligence flow in very fast, to be so well assured of it before he concluded; or the Governor must be so unfortunate, perhaps not having time in the multiplicity of his affairs, to keep a regular *diary*, as to forget what he had wrote, and as we now and then find it happens, in the “overflowings” of his Zeale, to be inconsistent with himself. —

It would be an endless task to take particular notice of every false and injurious representation contained in the voluminous Letters.*

* Indeed it might be said *the whole world would not contain* all the remarks that might be Justly made upon them. One instance however seems to be overlook’d by the Town, and as it is an instance of importance, it is hoped, its being noticed in the margin will not be thought amiss. The Governor after having prevail’d on the Council, at a very *thin* Board, and by a majority of *one* only out of *eleven* Gentlemen present, to advise to the clearing of the Manufactory House in Boston, for the recep-

No one can read them without being astonished at seeing a Person in so important a department as Governor Bernard sustained, [207.] Defending in his Letters to a Minister of State to such trifling Circumstances and such slanderous *chit-chat*: Boasting, as he does in one of his Letters of his *over-reaching* those with whom he was transacting public business; and in order to prejudice the most respectable Bodys, meanly *felching* from Individuals belonging to those Bodys, what had been drop'd in the course of Business or Debate: Journalizing every idle Report brought to him, and in short acting the part of a

tion of A part of the two Irish Regiments then expected, in his letter to Lord Hillsborough of Novem^r 1st he gives him an account of the steps he had ordered for the *removal of the Families* out of the House. And it seems that the Governor, by a power which he had *assumed*, appointed the Sheriff and two of his Deputies, Baliffs for the Governor and Council for the purpose; These Families however, refused to submit to *such* authority even tho' the Chief Justice himself *condescended*, to go with the Sheriff, and *advised* them to give up the House. The Sheriff upon the third attempt says the Governor, "finding the Window opened entred; upon which [207.] The People gathered about him and shut him up; he then *made a signal* to an Officer who was without, *who brought a party of Soldiers*, who took possession of the Yard of the Building, and relieved the Sheriff from his confinement" — This is the Governors account of the matter; but others give a very different account of it, and say that the Sheriff attempted a *forceable* entry, and was resisted by the People within the house; and by them only: Certain it is that one of them commenced an action of trespass against the Sheriff; but what became of the Action the Records of the Court of Common Pleas will best shew: It is also certain that an Officer, a *military* Officer, was without and *at hand*; and upon a signal from the Sheriff, brought a party of Soldiers, the whole Regiment being then incamped in sight on the Common and the Soldiers (not the Inhabitants as the Governor asserts) "kept the House blockaded all that Day and best part of the next." It is further certain and it may be attested by the oaths of several persons of credit that offers were made to the Sheriff, of sufficient aid in the *legal* execution of his Office, if he would dismiss the Troops; illegal steps being at the same time excepted against — Great numbers of people during *the Siege* as it may be properly called, were collected in the Street, which is as spacious as in any part of the Town, but the Governor owns they did no mischief: He indeed represents it in his usual manner as a GREAT MOB *assembled with some of the Chiefs of the Faction*, intimating thereby as in his former letters "an intended insurrection:" The General on the other hand says the matter "occasioned a *little disturbance* of no consequence"; but takes care to add, that "it served to show a most obstinate spirit of opposition to every *measure* of Government" The Governor further says, the Inhabitants "were very abusive to the Soldiers": — The contrary is most certainly and *notoriously* true. He says also that "the Soldiers were withdrawn on the Evening of the second Day": So far is this from truth, that the Guard of Soldiers, to whose custody the Sheriff committed the Cellar of the House, which he had got the possession of, kept their post a *much longer time*; and application was made to diverse of his Majestys Justices of the Peace for their removal *by the force of law* near three weeks after. And again the Governor says, that "this Building [208.] Was kept filled with the outcast of the workhouse, to prevent its being used for the accommodation of the Kings Troops"; which is contradicted by the *Oaths* of all the Overseers of the poor, who must have known it had it been true, for the care and Government of the Work-House is by law vested in them. The truth is the people gathered upon this extraordinary occasion, but were very peaceable; some few it may be to carry intelligence to the Governor, but by far the greater part, from a Just abhorrence of this *measure of Government*, to borrow the general expression, and an anxiety for the event of this *first open and avow'd* effort of *Military TYRANNY!* The Governor declares, that the Council who were alarmed at the violence of this proceeding, must have known that the Entry "could not have been made without *force*," and he sufficiently explain what *sort of force* he meant in the reason he gives why the Soldiers were withdrawn for that time, which was because "the Building was not immediately wanted," the Irish Regiment for whom it was designed as was *pretended* Not [209.] being yet arrived — Perhaps the Governor gives this circumstantial account to his Lordship to confirm what he had before said, that "Two Regiments were not sufficient to AWE THE TOWN — This attack upon the security of the Peoples *Dwelling-Houses*, was as *violent* as has ever been known even under the most *despotic* Governments, tho' happily it proved unsuccessful. This is one of the *bright glories* of BERNARDS Administration: He who with so much *readiness* & exact *propriety* afforded the aid of his *advice*, and *PREJUDGED* the matter, claims however his share in the *Annals* of fame.

Pimp rather than a Governor. — As these Letters being now made publick, will be a Monument of disgrace to *him*, it cannot be supposed, that any honor can be derived from them, to those great Men to whom they were addressed, notwithstanding the Town have been oblig'd in Justice [208.] Justice to themselves; to say this much in their own vindication, we should be yet be glad that the ancient and happy union between Great Britain and this Country, which Governor Bernard has so industriously labour'd to interrupt, might be restored. Some have indeed flatter'd themselves with the prospect of it; as intelligence is said to have been received from Administration, that all the Revenue Acts would be repealed: But as it since appears by Lord Hillsboroughs own account, that nothing more is intended, than the taking off the dutys on Paper, Glass, and Painters colours, upon commercial principles only; if that is all it will not give satisfaction: It will not even relieve the trade from the burdens it labours under; much less will it remove the grounds of the discontent, which runs thro' the Continent, upon much higher principles. Their Rights are invaded by these Acts; therefore until they are *all* repealed, the *cause* of their Just complaints cannot be removed: In short the Grievances which lie heavily upon us we shall never think redressed, till *every Act* passed by the British Parliament for the express purpose of raising a Revenue upon us without our consent is repealed; till the American Board of Commissioners of the Customs is dissolved; the Troops recalled, and things restored to the state they were in before the late extraordinary measures of Administration took place. —

[209.] Besides these Letters of Governor Bernard, we find others written by General Gage and Commodore Hood. And we cannot but observe that altho' these Gentlemen were perfect Strangers in the Town, they have yet taken such extraordinary freedoms, and the General in particular has wrote in such a positive strain, as must unavoidably give high disgust to every Reader of candor and impartiality. — If these Gentlemen received the character of the Town, or of any of its Individuals, from Governor Bernard as we are ready to think they did, they must have been long before convinced, if they knew any thing at all of the state of the Town, that the Governor was too deeply interested in *misrepresenting*, to be credited in a point of that importance; and therefore common Justice would have dictated a suspension of their public testimony to the prejudice of a Community, till they could have had the opportunity of doing it upon impartial enquiry, or *their own* observation — The General seems to have early imbib'd some sort of prejudice against a Town, that had been before prejudiced in his favor: For the Governor in one of his Letters to Lord Hillsborough acquaints him, that the General “ had sent Cap^t. Montresor from New York to assist the Forces as *Enginier*, and enable them to recover and maintain the Castle and such other Posts as they could secure,” upon intelligence that the People in and about Boston had *revolted*. Now even the Governor himself declares this to be a mistake, and says that things were not “ quite so bad as that came to.” — As there are two con-

stant and regular Posts between this Town & N York, each of which carries intelligence from the one to the other in the course of a week; and more especially as he might reasonably expect authentick accounts of a matter of such *importance*, by express in a shorter time; it is strange if the Generals mind was unbiassed, that he should so strongly rely upon private advice, as to form his measures from them, which the Governor [210.] Asserts — It was a measure of importance, as it issued to the Town; for Coll^o. Dalrymple who had the Command of the Regiments, from the *authority of these new orders*, as the Governor declares, thought proper to alter the plan, which was to land only one, and landed both the Regiments in Boston without loss of time. Perhaps it was under the impression of these *private advices*, and the Narrative of the proceedings of the Town Meeting, which the Governor also mentions as influential on the Generals measures, and which possibly was a Narrative of the Governors own writing, that so wrought upon the Generals imagination, as to induce him to give his opinion to his Lordship, that the “intentions of the Town were suspicious, and that he was happy the Troops from Hallifax arrived at the time they did!” These and many such like unprovoked expressions are to be found in the Letters of both of these Gentlemen, and especially the Generals; but as they partake of a full portion of the spirit of Governor Bernards and as the sense of this Province fully appears in the late spirited Resolves of the House of Representatives, we shall avoid troubling the Publick with particular Remarks upon them, and to borrow an expression of *great authority*, “treat them with the contempt they deserve —

[NOTE. — The volume is closed at this point, being the last date in the year 1769. It will be noted that original pages 206, 207, 208, and 209 contain a long foot-note, so arranged in the manuscript volume. — W. H. W.]

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