Copy of Edward Randolph's Articles of high Miſdemeanor exhibited againſt the General Court ſitting 15th February 1681.*

Articles of high miſdemeanour exhibited againſt a faction in the generall court, ſitting in Boſton, 15 Feb. 81. viz. againſt Tho. Danforth, Dan. Gookin, Mr. Saltonſtall, Sam. Nowell, Mr. Richards, Mr. Davy, Mr. Gidney, Mr. Appleton, magiſtrates. And againſt John Fiſher, Eliſha Cook, Tho. Brattle, Anthony Stodder, Bathurſt, Hathorn, Wait, Johnſon, Hutchinſon, Sprague, Oakes, Holbrook, Cuſhion, Hammond, Pike, deputys &c. By Edward Randolph, collector, &c. of his Majeſties cuſtoms in New-England.

I. THAT the ſaid faction, the governor not conſenting thereto, have refuſed to publiſh his Majeſties proclamation of the 24th of November in the 23d year of his reign, ſent by his Majeſties ſpecial command, and received by this government in October 1680, which enforceth the act made in 25th year of his Majeſties reign.

II. The

* Maſſa. Hiſt. Vol. I. p. 335.

II. The ſaid faction have refuſed to declare and admit of his Majeſties letters pattents bearing date at Weſtminſter 15th October, in the 33d year of his reign, erecting an office of collector, &c. of his Majeſties cuſtoms in New-England, and of the powers granted to his Majeſties officer by the ſame, tho' often preſſed thereunto, in the generall court, by the governour, Major Dudley and ſeverall of the magiſtrates of the colony.

III. The ſaid faction have refuſed to pay me ſeverall ſummes of money which I was forced to depoſit in court before I could proceed to triall of cauſes relating to his Majeſty's concerns, by virtue of an order of court made October 1. 1681, no law of this colony directing the ſame, though by his Majeſty's royall letters of Octob. 21. 1681, they are particularly required thereunto.

IV. The ſaid faction, under pretence of ſatisfaction of his Majeſty and regulating the trade of this colony, in oppoſition to the ſaid officer of collector of his Majeſty's cuſtoms, have confirmed the place and powers of the collector of the cuſtoms and impoſts laid upon wines and ſtrong waters imported into their colony, ſet up by a law made in their colony in 1645, their preſent navall officer, having been chiefe collector of theſe dutyes above a yeare before this navall office was ordered, as by their law, navall office, doth appeare.

navall office, doth appeare.

V. The ſaid faction continue to exerciſe the power of governor and court of aſſiſtants, which, through the inadvertency of former governors, the court of deputyes have aſſumed, to heare, repeale and determine in civill cauſes, which, for want of education and being under no particular oath, they are uncapable to manage: ſo that by their numbers outvoting the governor and court of aſſiſtants, his Majeſty's ſubjects greatly ſuffer in their eſtates, and beſides, there is no ſuch power granted them in their charter.

VI. The ſaid faction have neglected to repeale all laws of their colony contrary to the laws of England, though required thereunto by his Majeſty's letters of 28th of Feb. 1662, and the obſervance thereof promiſed by their agents at

at that time; and alſo by particular direction from the right honourable the Lords of the committee of trade and plantation to their late agents in 1678, by which meanes coining of money (acknowledged in their agents petition to his Majeſty a great crime and miſdemeanor, who then craved his Majeſty's pardon to the government for the ſame) is continued to this day, &c. Alſo their laws eccleſiaſticall continued, &c.

VII. The ſaid faction have refuſed to admit of his Majeſties letters pattents beating date at Weſtminſter 19th of May in the 32d year of his Majeſty's reign, granted to William Blathwait, Eſq; erecting an office of ſurveyor and auditor generall of his Majeſties revenues ariſing in America, and do appropriate to themſelves the fines, forfeitures, &c. which appear by the ſaid letters pattents to belong to his Majeſty, and they make the condition of all recognizances and penall bonds payable to the treaſurer and not to the King.