

Numb. 1

# PUBLICK OCCURRENCES

Both *FORREIGN* and *DOMESTICK*\*

Boston, Thursday Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1690.

**I**t is designed, that the Country shall be furnished Once a month (or if any Glut of Occurrences happen, oftener,) with an Account of such considerable things as have arrived unto our Notice.

In order hereunto, the Publisher will take what pains he can to obtain a Faithful Relation of all such things; and will particularly make himself beholden to such Persons in Boston whom he knows to have been for their own use the diligent Observers of such matters.

That which is herein proposed, is, First, That Memorable Occurrences of Divine Providence may not be neglected or forgotten, as they too often are. Secondly, That people everywhere may better understand the Circumstances of Public Affairs, both abroad and at home; which may not only direct their Thoughts at all times, but at some times also to assist their Businesses and Negotiations.

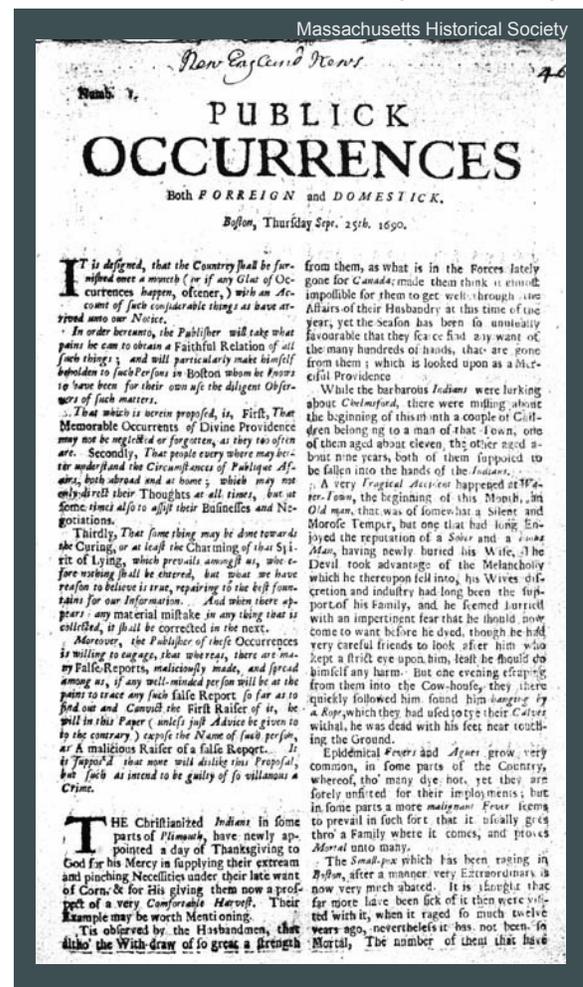
Thirdly, That something may be done towards the Curing, or at least the Charming of that Spirit of Lying, which prevails amongst us, wherefore nothing shall be entered, but what we have reason to believe is true, repairing to the best fountains for our Information. And when there appears any material mistake in anything that is collected, it shall be corrected in the next [edition].

Moreover, the Publisher of these Occurrences is willing to engage, that whereas, there are many False Reports, maliciously made, and spread among us, if any well-minded person will be at the pains to trace any such false Report so far as to find out and Convict the First Raiser of it, he will in this Paper (unless just Advice be given to the contrary) expose the Name of such person as A malicious Raiser of a false Report. It is supposed that none will dislike this Proposal, but such as intend to be guilty of so villainous a Crime.

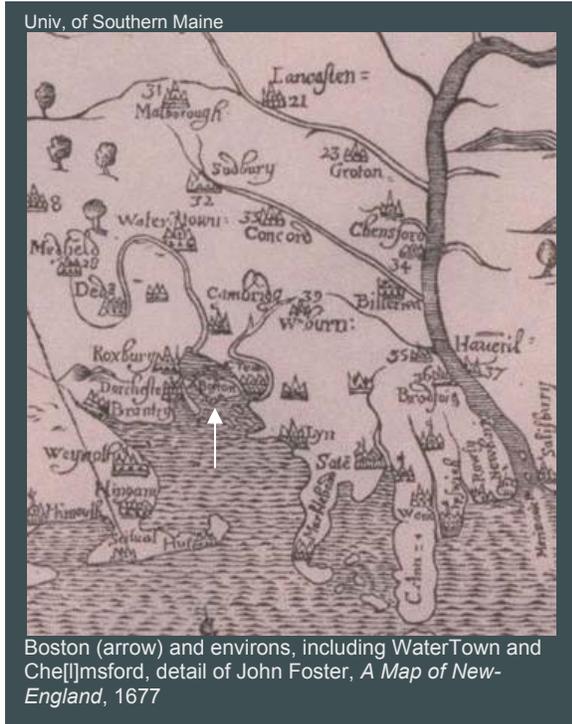
**T**he Christianized Indians in some parts of Plimouth, have newly appointed a day of

Thanksgiving to God for his Mercy in supplying their extreme and pinching Necessities under their late want of Corn, & for His giving them now a prospect of a very Comfortable Harvest. Their Example may be worth Mentioning.

Tis observed by the Husbandmen [farmers], that altho' the With-draw of so great a strength



from them, as what is in the Forces lately gone for *Canada*<sup>1</sup> made them think it almost impossible for them to get well through the Affairs of their Husbandry at this time of the year, yet the Season has been so unusually favourable that they scarce find any want of the many hundreds of hands [workers], that are gone from them; which is looked upon as a Merciful Providence.



While the barbarous *Indians* were lurking about *Chelmsford*, there were missing about the beginning of this month a couple of Children belonging to man of that Town, one of them aged about eleven, the other aged about nine years, both of them supposed to be fallen into the hands of the *Indians*.

A very *Tragical Accident* happened at *Water-Town*, the beginning of this Month, an *Old man*, that was of somewhat a Silent and Morose Temper, but one that had long Enjoyed the reputation of a *Sober* and a *Pious Man*, having newly buried his Wife, The Devil took advantage of the Melancholy which he thereupon fell into, his Wife's discretion and industry had long been the support of his Family, and he seemed hurried with an impertinent fear that he should no come to want [poverty] before he died, though he had very careful friends to look after him who kept a strict eye upon him, lest he should do himself any harm. But one evening

escaping from them into the Cow-house, they there quickly followed him, found him *hanging by a Rope*, which they had used to tie their Calves withal, he was dead with his feet near toudging the Ground.

Epidemical *Fevers* and *Agues* [fevers] grow very common, in some parts of the Country, whereof, tho' many die not, yet they are sorely unfitted for their employments; but in some parts of more *malignant Fever* seems to prevail in such sort that it usually goes thro' a Family where it comes, and proves *Mortal* unto many.

The *Small-pox* which has been raging in *Boston*, after a manner very Extraordinary, is now very much abated. It is thought that far more have been sick of it than were visited with it, when it raged so much twelve years ago, nevertheless it has not been so Mortal, The number of them that have died in *Boston* by this last Visitation is about *three hundred and twenty*, which is not perhaps half so many as fell by the former. The Time of its being most *General*, was in the Months *June, July, and August*, then 'twas that sometimes in some one Congregation on a Lord's-day there would be Bills desiring prayers for above an *hundred Sick*: It seized upon all sorts of people that came in the way of it, it infected even *Children in the bellies of Mothers that had themselves undergone the Disease many years ago*; for some such were now born full of the Distemper. 'Tis not easy to relate the Trouble and Sorrow that poor *Boston* has felt by this *Epidemical Contagion*. But we hope it will be pretty nigh Extinguished, by that time twelve month when it first began to Spread. It now unhappily spreads in several other places, among which our *Garrisons in the East* are to be reckoned some of the greatest Sufferers.

Altho' *Boston* did a few weeks ago, meet with a Disaster by *Fire*, which consumed about *twenty Houses* near the *Mill-Creek*, yet about midnight, between the sixteenth and seventeenth of this Instant [month], *another Fire* broke forth near the *South-Meeting-House*, which consumed about five or six houses and had almost carried the Meeting-house itself, one of the fairest Edifices in the Country, if God had not remarkably assisted the Endeavours of the People to put out the Fire. There were two more considerable Circumstances in the Calamities of this Fire, one was that a young man belonging to the House

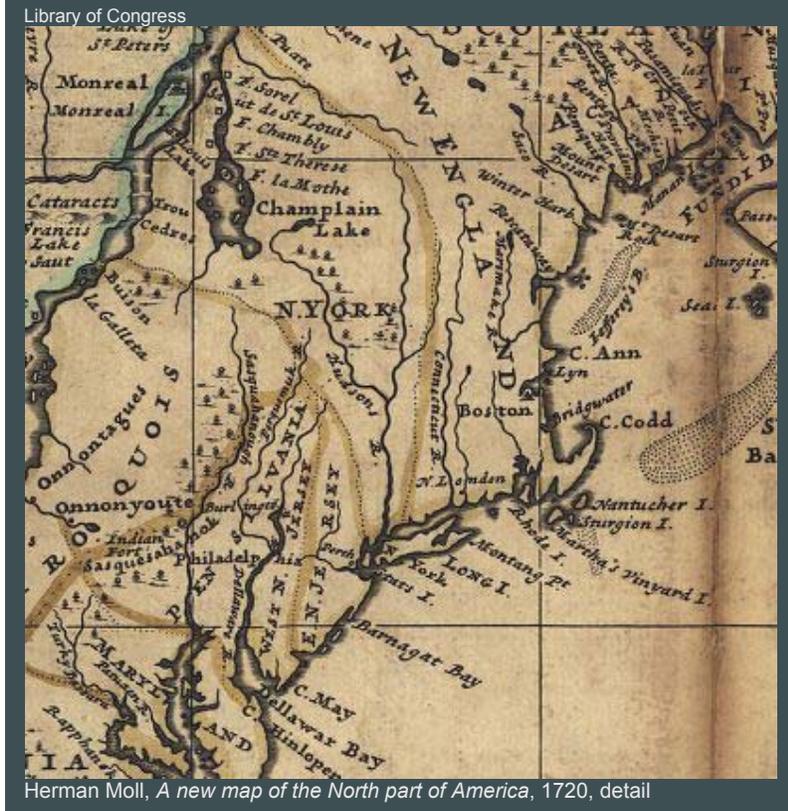
where the Fire began, unhappily perished in the Flames; it seems that tho' he might sooner awake than some others who did escape, yet he some way lost those Wits that should have taught him to help himself. Another was that the best furnished PRINTING-PRESS, of those few that we know of in *America*, was lost; a loss not presently to be repaired.

The chief discourse of this month has been about the affairs of the Western Expedition against Canada. The *Albanians* [Albany residents], *New-Yorkers* and the *five Nations of Indians* [Iroquois], in the *West*, had long been pressing of the *Massachusetts*, to make an Expedition by Sea, into *Canada*, and still made us believe, that they stayed for us, and that while

we assaulted *Quebeck*, they would pass the *Lake* [Champlain], and by Land make a Descent upon *Mount Real* [Montreal; upper left in map at left]. Accordingly this Colony with some assistance from our kind Neighbours of *Plimouth*; fitted out an Army of near *five and twenty hundred men*, and a Navy of two and thirty Sail; which went from hence the beginning of the last *August*, under the Command of the Honourable Sir *William Phips*.

In the mean time the *English Colonies & Provinces* in the *West* raised Forces, the Numbers whereof have been reported five or six hundred. The Honourable General *Winthrop* was in the Head of these, and advanced within a few miles of the *Lake*; He there had some good Number of *Maqua's*<sup>2</sup> [Mohawks] to join his Forces, but contrary to his Expectation, it was found that the Canoes to have been ready for the

Transportation of the Army over the *Lake*, were not prepared, and the other Nations of Indians, that should have come to this Campaign, sent their Excuses, pretending that the Small-pox was among them, and some other Trifles. The General, Meeting with such vexing disappointments, called a Council of War, wherein 'twas agreed, That it was impossible for them to Prosecute their Intended Expedition. However he dispatched away the *Maqua's* to the *French Territories*, who returned with some Success, having slain several of the *French*, and brought home several Prisoners, whom they used in a manner too barbarous for any English to approve. The General coming back to *Albany*, there happened a misunderstanding, between him and the Lieutenant Governour of *New-york*, which occasioned much discourse, but produced



Herman Moll, *A new map of the North part of America*, 1720, detail

There lately arrived as *Piscataqua* [see *Pescataway* on map above; present-day Portsmouth, NH] one *Papoon* from *Penobscot* [in present-day Maine], in a small Shallop [boat], wherein he had used to attend upon the pleasure of *Casteen* [Baron de St. Castin, a Frenchman leading the Penobscot Indian attacks] but took his opportunity to run away, and reports: That a Vessel of small Bulk bound from *Bristol* [England] to *Virginia*, having been so long at Sea, till they were pressed with want [hunger], put in at *Penobscot* instead of *Piscataqua*, where the *Indians* and *French* seized her, and Butchered the Master, and several of the men: but that himself who belonged unto the Ship's Crew, being a *Jersey-man*, was more favourably used, & found at length an advantage to make his Escape.

not those effects which were feared of it. Where lay the bottom of these miscarriages is variously conjectured, if any people further West than *Albany*, have been Tampering with the Indians, to desert the business of *Canada*, we hope time will discover it. And if Almighty God will have *Canada* to be subdu'd without the assistance of those miserable Savages, in whom we have too much confided, we shall be glad, that there will be no Sacrifice offered up to the Devil, upon this occasion; God alone will have all the Glory.

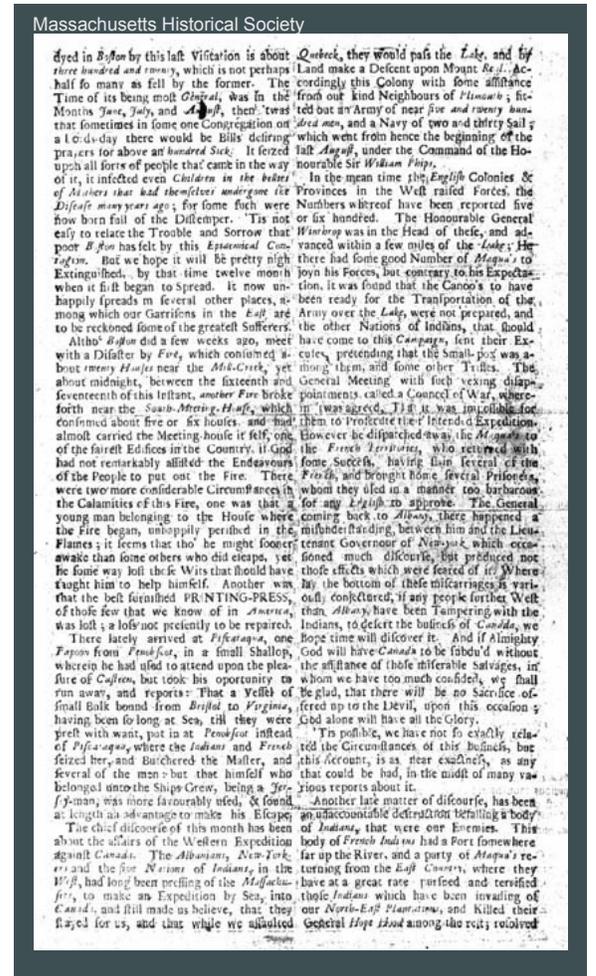
'Tis possible, we have not so exactly related the Circumstances of this business, but this Account, is as near exactness, as any that could be had, in the midst of many various reports about it.

Another late matter of discourse, has been an unaccountable destruction befalling a body of *Indians*, that were our Enemies. This body of *French Indians* had a Fort somewhere far up the River, and a party of *Maqua's* returning from the *East Country*, where they have at a great rate pursued and terrified those *Indians* which have been invading of our *North-East Plantations* [Maine], and Killed their General *Hope Hood* among the rest; resolved to visit this Fort; but they found the Fort ruined, the Canoes cut to pieces, and the people all either Butchered or Captived, This gave them no little surprise, and they give the *English* this account of it. That a body of *Maqua's* lately returning from the Spoil of *Canada* brought several *French Prisoners* with them; That calling at this Fort in their way, the *Indians* there seeing themselves unable to resist them did pass divers Complements with them and partake of their Booties [loot], That a *French* Captive after this, escaping from the *Maqua's* informed the *French* that these *Indians* had revolted unto the *Maqua's*, and hereupon the *French* or their *Indians* made a sudden Sally forth upon them, and utterly destroyed them, tho' they were in reality of their own party still.

Two *English Captives* escaped from the hands of the *Indians* and *French* at *Piscadamoquady* came into *Portsmouth* on the sixteenth Instant [of the month] & say, That when Capt. *Mason* was at *Port Real* [Newport Bay, Rhode Island], he cut the faces, and ript the bellies of two *Indians*, and threw a third Over board in the sight of the *French*, who informing the other *Indians* of it, they have in revenge barbarously

Butcher'd forty Captives of ours that were in their hands.

These two Captives escaped in a Shallop, which our Enemies intended to have set out with all the Circumstances of a Fishing Shallop, but to have indeed fill'd it with *Indians* that should have Clap't on board any *English* Vessel that came in their way; They say that about three or four weeks ago, some *Indians* were coming this way to War, but crossing a path which they supposed to be of the *Maqua's*, they followed it



until they discovered a place where some Canoes were making, whereupon twenty *Kennebeck Indian*-Warriors went to look further after the business, who never yet returned. Which gives hope that they may come short home, but upon this the *Squaws* are sent to *Penobscot*, and the men stand on their Defense.

*Portsmouth* Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Two days since arrived here a small Vessel from *Barbadoes* [English colony in the Caribbean], in which is a

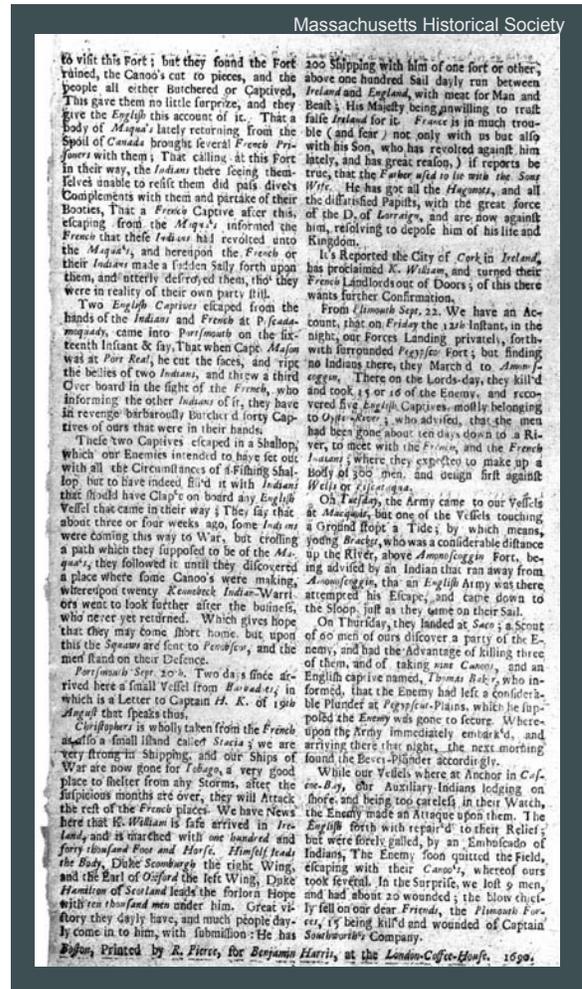
Letter to Captain H. K. of 19<sup>th</sup> August that speaks thus,

[St.] Christopher's [now St. Kitts] is wholly taken from the French as also a small island called *Stacia*; we are very strong in Shipping, and our Ships of War are now gone for *Tobago*, a very good place to shelter from any Storms, after the suspicious months are over, they will Attack the rest of the French places [Caribbean islands]. We have News here that K[ing]. William [of England]<sup>3</sup> is safe arrived in *Ireland*, and is marched with *one hundred and forty thousand Foot and Horse*. Himself leads the *Body*, Duke *Scomburgh* the right Wing, and the Earl of *Oxford* the left Wing, Duke *Hamilton* of *Scotland* leads the forlorn Hope with *ten thousand men* under him. Great victory they daily have, and much people daily come in to him, with submission: He has 200 shipping with him of one sort or other, above one hundred Sail daily run between *Ireland* and *England*, with meat for Man and Beast; His Majesty being unwilling to trust false *Ireland* for it. France is in much trouble (and fear) not only with us but also with his Son, who has revolted against him lately, and has great reason,) if reports be true, that the *Father used to lie with the Son's Wife*. He has got all the *Huguenots* [French Protestants], and all the dissatisfied *Papists* [Roman Catholics], with the great force of the D[uke]. of *Lorraine*, and are now against him, resolving to depose him of his life and Kingdom.

It's Reported the City of *Cork* in *Ireland*, has proclaimed K. *William*, and turned their *French* Landlords out of Doors; and of this there wants further Confirmation.

From *Plimouth Sept. 22*. We have an Account, that on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> Instant [of this month], in the night, our Forces Landing privately, forthwith surrounded *Pegypscow* Fort [present-day Brunswick, NH]; but finding no Indians there, they March'd to *Amonoscoggin*. There on the Lord's-day, they kill'd and took 15 or 16 of the Enemy, and recovered five *English* Captives mostly belonging to *Oyster-River*; who advised, that the men had been gone about ten days down to a River, to meet with the *French*, and the *French Indians*; where they expected to make up a Body of 300 men, and design first against *Wells* or *Piscataqua*.

On Tuesday, the Army came to our Vessels at *Macquois*, but one of the Vessels touching a Ground stoppt a Tide; by which means, young *Bracket*, who was a considerable distance up the River, above *Amonoscoggin* Fort, being advised by an Indian that ran away from *Amonoscoggin*, that an *English* Army was there, attempted his Escape, and came down to the Sloop, just as they came on their Sail.



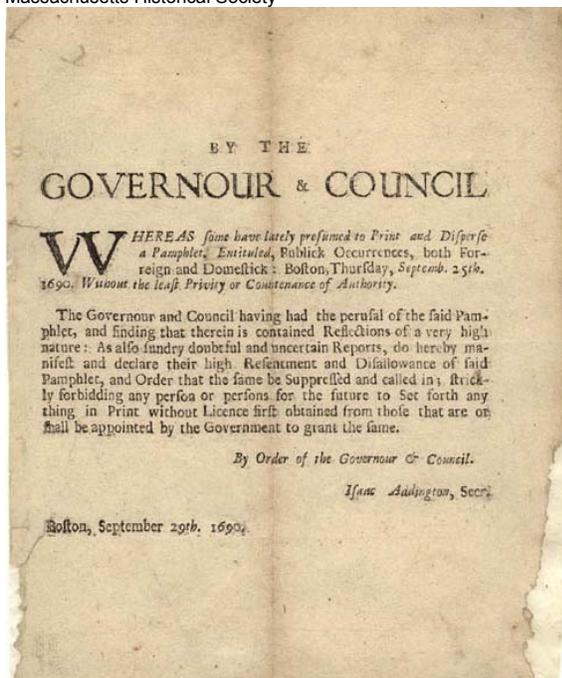
On Thursday, they landed at *Saco*; a Scout of 60 men of ours discover a party of the Enemy, and had the Advantage of killing three of them, and of taking *nine Canoes*, and an *English* captive named, *Thomas Baker*, who informed, that the Enemy had left a considerable Plunder at *Pegypscow*-Plains, which he supposed the *Enemy* was gone to secure. Whereupon the Army immediately embark'd, and arriving there that night, the next morning found the *Bever*-Plunder accordingly.

While our Vessels were at Anchor in *Cascoe-Bay*, our Auxiliary [allied] Indians lodging on shore, and being too careless in their Watch, the Enemy made an Attack upon them. The *English* forthwith repair'd to their Relief; but were sorely galled, by an Embuscado of Indians, The Enemy soon quitted the Field, escaping with their

*Canoes*, whereof ours took several. In the Surprise, we lost 9 men, and had about 20 wounded; the blow chiefly fell on our dear *Friends*, the *Plimouth Forces*, 15 being kill'd and wounded of Captain *Southworth's* Company.

BY THE  
GOVERNOUR & COUNCIL

Massachusetts Historical Society



**W**HEREAS some have lately presumed to Print and Disperse a Pamphlet, Entitled, Publick Occurrences, both Forreign and Domestick: Boston, Thursday, *Septem. 25<sup>th</sup>*. Without the least Privity or Countenance of Authority.

The Governour and Council having had the perusal of the said Pamphlet, and finding that therein is contained Reflections of a very high nature:<sup>4</sup> As also sundry doubtful and uncertain Reports, do hereby manifest and declare their high Resentment and Disallowance of said Pamphlet, and Order that the same be Suppress'd and called in; strictly forbidding any person or persons for the future to Set forth any thing in Print without Licence first obtained from those that are or shall be appointed by the Government to grant the same.

*By order of the Governour & Council.*  
*Isaac Addington, Secr.*

Boston, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1690.

<sup>1</sup> King William's War, 1689-1697, in which New France and the northern English colonies, both with their Indian allies, battled to a stalemate. The French and/or their Iroquois allies attacked the English settlements of Schenectady, Dover, York, Durham, Pemaquid and others, massacring hundreds of colonists. The English attacked the French towns of Quebec, Port Royal [Acadia/Nova Scotia], and La Prairie near Montreal, but failed to gain any territory in the 1697 peace treaty.

<sup>2</sup> Maqua's: Mohawk Indians.

<sup>3</sup> In the Revolution of 1688, King James II of England was overthrown and replaced by his uncle and father-in-law, William of Orange, who had invaded England from The Netherlands.

<sup>4</sup> The failure of the editor, Benjamin Harris, to apply for a license to print his newspaper, in addition to his criticism of the treatment of French captives by the Indian allies of the English, and his publishing rumors about the moral behavior of the French royal family, led to his newspaper being banned after one issue. All undistributed copies of the paper were destroyed.