

*That we can see no Shadow of Justice in that Extensive Claim of the British Parliament (vis) the Right of Enacting Laws binding on the colonies in all cases whatsoever. This system if once Established (we conceive) Hath a Direct tendency to Sap the foundation not only of Liberty, that Dearest of names, but of property, that best of Subjects. A tyranny ought to be Resisted in its first appearance, and we are convinced that the united provinces are just in their proceedings in this Regard.*

*It is our minds and Desire to Submit ourselves to the government of the Massachusetts Bay and that we are Ready with our Lives and fortunes to share with them the Event of the present struggle for Liberty however God may order it.*

*And finally that we will Share in and Submit to the Events of this undertaking however it may terminate, to the true performance of all which we bind and obligate ourselves firmly each to other on penalty of being Esteemed Enemie and traitor to our Country and Submitting ourselves to popular Resentment.*

*The body voted the Committee be a Standing Committee to make application to Massachusetts and to conduct all matters Civil or Military in the County till further Regulation be made. They voted to have no Dealings or Connection with any Person or Persons for the future that Shall Refuse to enter into the foregoing or Similar Resolution.*

*This committee canvassed the inhabitants for their support. One hundred twenty-five signed a document to that effect, twelve or thirteen refused among whom were the traders at the mouth of the river, and twenty evaded the inquiries. The committee met again on May 21, drew up a petition to Massachusetts for protection and union and appointed Asa Parley and Asa Kimball to deliver the document in Boston . . . . who soon reached that city and presented their documents to the council of Massachusetts.<sup>6</sup> (The council met in the Old State House.)*

*The envoys carried a document stating: All officers Civil or Military in the united provinces and all others are Desired not to molest or hinder the within Asa Parley and Asa Kimball in their progress, on the Contrary to Encourage and assist them as they would merit the esteem of all Lovers of their Country's Liberty.*

#### The Petition from the Committee to Massachusetts<sup>7</sup>

*To the Honourable Provincial Congress or general assembly of the province of the Massachusetts Bay. The Petition of [Committee members listed] in behalf of the Inhabitants of the River Saint Johns in Nova Scotia, Humbly Sheweth*

*That we your Petitioners have for some time past beheld with grief the Calamity brought on our nation and land by the Ruinous and Destructive Civil War. Our Situation being somewhat Remote from the Seat of these troubles and our Land Producing most of the necessaries of life we have not been so Immediately Effectuated as many Parts of the Continent, and therefor have hitherto taken no Part in the Present unnatural Quarrel, but have quietly Suffered a Suspension of trade hoping that God in his Providence would Point out a way for the amiable Settlement of these unhappy Disputes, but our hopes have hitherto Proved abortive, and troubles are Rather increased. Our governour hath thought proper effectually to prevent our being Supplied with arms and ammunition by ordering a large Penalty on any of these articles being Shipped or water born in the provinces, at the*

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<sup>6</sup> Kerr, op cit, 76

<sup>7</sup> Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 144, 147-148