

# Letters of Edward Winslow

to Governor John Winthrop

Right Worshipful,

Being newly risen from court I was requested by to our Governor, who cannot at present write, to dispatch a messenger to you presently to inform you that we have this day by solemn act of Court engaged ourselves to take part with you and our brethren of Connecticut in the war against the Pequots, purposing to set forth thirty men for the land service besides the managing of the vessels which we conceive will not be less than forty; now we fear it will be longer than we willingly would for want of coats and corslets which are very scarce with us unless you can furnish us for which we would willingly pay as also some other necessaries thereunto belonging. Tomorrow we shall know who are the men to go with them but hereof our Governor will write at large (who desireth to salute you once more by my pen) so soon as our Court is ended and opportunity is offered. Another main end of our sending is in regard we have heard no more till since we rose this evening of the last expedition of our brethren of Connecticut and Captain Underhill, and that is by Captain Standish his Indian who was sent this morning to Nemasket and saith the defeat of the fort is true and that only three English were slain in the taking of it. As also that the foresaid English and Captain Patrick are still at Narragansett and have been days which makes us jealous and shall be till we hear from you, and the rather because you heard nothing from any of them by letter when John Jenny came away. I pray you therefore let us hear, and let not this (though true) discourage the sending of your 160 men but take such revenge as may be a service to after times for any the barbarians to rise against us. If any letters be comen from England I pray you send them by the bearer or such news as is worth the sending. I am sorry for the carriage of your people God sanctify his hand and fit us for such trials as he hath appointed. Thus which my love to you and prayers for you and yours desiring you to salute my Christian friends which you take leave remaining,

Yours till death,

Edward Winslow

Plymouth, the 5th of the 4. Mo. 1636.

*To the Worshipful his much respected friend John Winthrop, Esqr. These be. Connecticut.*

New Plymouth the 22th of the 4<sup>th</sup> month.

Worthy Sir,

I perceive by a letter of Mr. Brewster's of a motion of yours to him to procure you hay for an 100 beasts. We had a purpose to have sent some cattle thither, but so discouraged by him, through the injurious dealing of his intruding neighbors, as we fear there will not be long living for man or beast, but if you please to make us of our right, my brother shall set your servants to work in our names and by our order, and afford them whatever personal help shall be thought meet, to the utmost of our power. What we shall yet do I know not, but will know ere long, and if New England will afford no justice will appeal further; but God forbid we should be put on such extremities: but were it not for Christ's cause that our profession may come to suffer by it, we would not be satisfied with the tenth of our demand, but would hasten another way. These oppressors deserve no favor, their pride would be taken down. Tis pity religion should be a cloak for such spirits. News I suppose I cannot send more than you hear. I have now written to your Government, and expect answer ere long. I thank you for the good office you endeavored when you were above, but sorry to hear how little effect your words took with them. God in time I hope will show them their folly. In the meantime and ever God direct you in all your proceedings. Be you kindly saluted and all that fear God with you, who in mercy preserve you and them, so prayeth.

Your assured friend,  
Edward Winslow

*To the right worshipful his much honored friend John Winthrop Esqr. Governor of the Massachusetts, these be.*

Much Honored Sir,

Your many and undeserved kindnesses, as formerly so more especially at my being last with you, tie me if possible yet nearer in heart and affection towards you and yours, whom I salute in the Lord. At our coming home, by the goodness of our God, there was an Indian newly come from Titacutt to advertise us that they had that day, being the day of our travel and 2d of the week, discovered the track and footing of a party of Indians, which could not be less in number than an hundred, which made either towards Duxbury or your parts, advising us to be in readiness to receive them, not knowing what their intent might be. Thomas Willet is come from the Dutch, your son Mr. Stephen in good health, who hath written to you by him. Capt. Underhill and the company at the fort in health, he hath violently taken a Pequot woman from the Dutch which was a Sachem's wife, and hath her prisoner, knows nothing of what we hear concerning Capt. Mason, but only that he was expected down with ninety men. Mr. Gardiner it seems much discourageth common men by extolling the valor of your adversaries, preferring them before the Spaniards. Your Sachem of the Massachusetts is in some jealousy amongst others because, say they, he was at Narragansett and saw the willingness of the multitude to become your enemies when the head was brought and did not acquaint you. The Pequots follow their fishing and planting as if they had no enemies. Their women of esteem and children are gone to Long Island with a strong guard at Pequot. They profess there you shall find them, and as they were there born and bred, there their bones shall be buried and rot in despite of the English: but if the Lord be on our side, their brags will soon fall. The truth is if once they be routed we know their courage will fail: ergo, fear not. I pray you when the questions are once stated for the conference, let us have a copy of them. My letters here but newly delivered. The Lord in mercy go along with you. I durst not lose this opportunity, nor can I write more being called on to seal.

Yours assured to his power,  
Edward Winslow.

May 22, 1637.

I pray you salute your assistants, also Mr. Wilson, Mr. Peters, Mr. Shepherd, etc. Let my haste excuse me.

Right Worshipful,

Although you cannot but be overburdened with business of divers kinds yet I am bold once more to trouble you, giving thanks for your last remembrance in sending the copy to me, which I have sent again, not knowing whether you have any other, but hope we shall never be troubled with the reality thereof. If such a thing be, I persuade myself it never was without my old neighbor Isaac<sup>1</sup>, whose head is always full of such projects, and hath too great familiarity with our common adversaries: but were he as well known to yours as us, they would rather have kept him here then anyway have encouraged his going over: but what I write I would not have made public; but the truth is he loveth neither you nor us.

We hear there is a nobleman come over unto you, but cannot believe till we can receive more credible information. If you could spare us a line you should further oblige us. I am sorry to hear the differences are as great as ever, but glad that our good God hath sent over men of such abilities to help in his cause. I pray you salute your brother Peters, Mr. Davenport (unknown) also Mr. Eaton and Mr. Hopkins. If I be not too bold with you, and if you hear from Mr. Stoughton and Mr. Wilson I beseech you let us know how things stand. Thus with my prayers for you and yours take leave remaining,

Your assured to his power,

Edward Winslow

Plymouth the 1 of the 5<sup>th</sup> month 1637.

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<sup>1</sup> Isaac Allerton.

*To the Worshipful his much honored friend John Winthrop, Esq. At his house at Boston, these.*

Sir,

Yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> of this present I lately received, being persuaded, as you write, that if it were your own case you would not stand with me, but in a case between a stranger and you wherein you are betruſted, and for the public, etc. I hope you conceive of me as of one that would not deſire anything that ſhould appear to be unjuſt: but for the cattle to be valued by two public perſons of your own might have ſatisfied the public; and for Mr. Andrews tis true he deſired cattle of ſuch an age and price; but the price at that time was under their worth by a year's growth: for yearlings and the advantage were ordinarily ſold for £15. Again Mr. Andrews is well acquainted with payments in England and how eaſy a thing it is to turn any valuable commodity into money, but it is otherwiſe here, and eſpecially at this the moſt hard and dead time of all other theſe many years: I ſpeak as it is with us: but if you conceive the Gentlemen valued them too high I am contented to let them go as I offered to yourſelf at £18 per head the five. If you ſay it is too high, truly I marvel at it, being this week Mr. Hatherley made payment to Mr. Freeman and Mr. Atwood in cows (and in a buſineſs Mr. Andrews, if I be not much miſtaken, is intereſted) at £18 15s. per head. Nay ſince theſe valued ſome paſſed in account between Mr. Paddy and ſome of your parts at £20 per head; and therefore I pray you take it into further conſideration, and remember you may fall into an extreme. Truly Sir it is my deſire to diſcharge it that makes me importune you, neither do I conceive how you can juſtly ſuffer in it: and to avoid ſuffering I ſee it is not poſſible: for I find innocency (by lamentable experience) will little help amongſt men, yea wherein I have been moſt careful, therein moſt abuſed, and therefore in diſcharging a good conſcience we muſt leave all events to God. If I had any hopes of a chapman I would make money of them but have none, however I thank you that have been ſo kind to give me time: but I fear that time will rather hurt than help me, and therefore beſeech you again either to accept them or acquaint Mr. Stoughton with it that he may write to Mr. Endecott about it: for they may do it as well by letter as preſence, only I pray you conceal what I offer if they muſt value them: and if you pleaſe I will ſend them upon the firſt notice.

I thank you for your loving manifeſtation about mine own buſineſs. There hath nothing been done in it ſince the Gentlemen (to whom I am much bounden) were here. As there ſhall be anything done I take it my duty to acquaint them who have taken ſo much pains therein. Only my purpoſe is to ſtudy ways to ſatisfy for words ſo far as a good cauſe will permit. The Lord in mercy direct me who have need of more than human patience to bear theſe things from this people: for ten times more from others were not a tenth part ſo much, nor can any believe that ſeeth not, that I ſhould ſuffer as I do from them. The Lord lay it not to their charge and give me wiſdom and patience to bear it. Be you ſaluted and yours together with thoſe Gentlemen (eſpecially my reſpects to your Governor.) Good Sir let me have your prayers who remain,

Yours till death.

Edward Winſlow

11.27.40

I thank you for your English news. I received a letter from Mr. Sherley this year; he writes that inſtead of a letter he had thought to have ſeen me, but is glad I came not, for if I or any partner had come Mr. Beauchamp had troubled him, and had for that end entertained a Solicitor, etc. He writes me of the Lord Keeper's death, and that Secretary Cooke hath letters of eaſe, which is to me very ſad: for New England in thoſe two is ſtripped at once of our beſt

friends at the Board: so that now we must live by faith without any dependence on means at all. Mr. Downing<sup>2</sup> to whom I desire to be remembered with all thankfulness, can better inform you about it than myself.

I would have written to the Gentlemen about our business, but knew now how you would take it, but what you shall write in it I will stand to, and therefore I pray you let it be dispatched and let me have word that I may send them.

*To the Worshipful his much respected friend John Winthrop Esqr. At his house at Boston, these be.*

Worthy Sir,

Your last letter I received and give you thanks for your continued love in imparting unto us such news as you hear from England. What will be the issue of these sore beginnings the Lord only knoweth, but it concerneth us deeply to be affected with them as a people that must share with them in weal and woe. The Lord in mercy so order and dispose as what is amiss may be reformed and his name may be glorified.

Concerning your acceptance of the five cows I am willing to send them, and because the weather is so hot, the fly so busy, and the woods so thick, I have agreed with Robert Waterman to bring them by water. I pray you send me a receipt under your hand for them upon the back of the note or bill I left with you. Thus with my kind salutes to yourself and all yours whose welfare I desire as mine own, with all due respects to you and them take leave remaining,

Your assured,

Edward Winslow

Plymouth. (5) 7. 40

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<sup>2</sup> Emanuel Downing came to New England in 1638, his son James having come to New England as early as 1631, and daughters Mary and Susan having come in 1633 with William Coddington. Emanuel Downing's second wife was Lucy Winthrop, sister of John Winthrop.

*To the Worshipful his much honored friend John Winthrop, Esqr. At his house at Boston, these be.*

Sir,

By the enclosed you may perceive the earnest request of your unfaithful servant Luxford who hath no less but much more importuned me since I received his lines, using Paul's plea for Onesimus, etc. but you know the man and his manner of importunity, pleading his pains and care so many years, and however his failings were great, yet I perceive he thinks his pains to be greater, and that in his extreme necessity you should take compassion on him, but I refer you to your mercy and yet would have you consider well what you do. The truth is I think he is very poor: for he worketh not, yet offered me his labor this harvest for his diet, which for some reasons I durst not accept, but pity the man. He hath taken a farm of Mr. Hanbury which was Mr. Brown's at £4 per annum, but how he will pay it or raise it I know not, especially when he hath neither stock, security, food, nor credit. He saith there are some in the Bay that will afford him some help, but who they are or what it is I know not.

I suppose you have heard what the issue of the day of humiliation concerning the election of Mr. Chancey. But things are like still to go ill, for on the 2d day of this week a motion was made by Mr. Paddy and some that inordinately cleave to him for his settling at Jones River, some three miles from Plymouth, who purposeth there to lay the foundation of an academy, and read the arts to some that are fit for that purpose, that so they may also have use of his gifts. I manifested my dislike to the Governor who still pressed his gifts, but I told him they must still retain his errors etc. with his gifts, which were like to weaken if not destroy both the Congregations of Plymouth and Duxbury, being seated in the midst equally between both, having already manifested his judgment to be more rigid than any Separatist I ever read or knew, he holding it lawful (nay a duty for ought I hear) to censure any that shall oppose the major part of the Church, whether it be in election of officers or receiving in or casting out of members if they will not be convicted and yield, by which means 10 or more may be cast out to receive in one. But what will be the issue of these things the Lord only knoweth. I fear the Lord hath a quarrel with us, and the rather because Mr. Bradford and Mr. Reynor are both drawn to yield to the motion which is so contrary in my apprehension to the peace of the Churches, especially when I consider the confidence or rather self-willedness of the man. Truly Sir, I conceive if you conceal how you came by your information, and give your Christian advice to Mr. Bradford speedily about it, you may be the instrument of much good; for myself however I am ready to demand a dismissal from them, yet I sympathize with them and desire their welfare as much as ever, and for me to oppose, he hath such a party as I might rather expect dismissal with a censure than otherwise. But entreating you to conceal your author, and commending you and it with all yours to the blessing of the blessed God, with many thanks for your last love take leave remaining,

Yours until death,

Edward Winslow

Careswell, this 10<sup>th</sup> of 8<sup>th</sup> 1640.

Mr. Blindman salutes you.

*To his much honored friend John Winthrop Esqr. At his house at Boston these be.*

Worthy Sir,

When I remember your constant and long continued love I cannot but blame myself that having no special business into your parts this winter season, and thereby debarred from sight, have not so much as written these two months unto you. This later I must needs confess is inexcusable, but for the former however it is business enough for me to see the face of yourself and yours, together with many godly and precious friends and brethren I have both in Boston and elsewhere amongst you, yet the many businesses I have had (and the more in regard of Mr. Blindman's friends that are come to live with us, and the straitness of place to receive them) and our preparations to enter into covenant, together with many afflictions in my family, God being pleased still to exercise me under his hand by taking away one of my children by death<sup>3</sup>, and some others in my family exercised with sickness, together with some other outward losses in my cattle, may rather cause me to stay at home and consider, then to be exercised abroad. But, God willing, I shall take a due season to see you, and them: in the meantime let these my lines witness my continued love to you and them whose welfare, if my heart deceive me not, I desire as mine own.

I received letters lately from Mr. Endecott and your brother Peters, and make bold to trouble you with conveying of my answers to them, together with many small pamphlets, bound up together, which we printed in the Netherlands, occasioned by one of them called the *People's Plea for the Exercise of Prophecy*<sup>4</sup>, which he much desired me to procure and send him, and which I entreat you to convey by the first opportunity; for it was long before I could call to mind where I had lent it, and could not procure another in all Plymouth. There is a friend of mine that desired me to crave your advice in two particulars: the one in case he hath sold a parcel of goods of some value to one upon day, and hath but a bare bill for his security, and the person sufficiently suspected, whether your Court allow not an arrest for better security? Or if he cannot be that way relieved, then by what other? The 2d is of greater consequence, viz. having an estate of lands still in Wales, tho' as formally made over to another as advice of law would pass it, and acknowledged before a Master of the Chancery, yet since his coming away is credibly informed that he was called in Court of Star Chamber and fined £200 for not appearance, but was never served with any precept nor heard of it till within these 14 days, nor can conceive anything save malice should be alleged against him. Now what course you will advise him to take in it. I pray you Sir pardon my boldness with you, and let me receive a word or two from you as your occasions will permit. Be you kindly saluted, also Mr. Cotton, Mr. Wilson, your sons Mr. Joh., Mr. Steph., and Mr. Adam, with all other my beloved friends with you, whose prayers I desire, especially in that great and weighty work which doth so much concern the glory of God in raising up his church amongst us. And the Father of Mercies and God of Comfort raise and keep up your spirit above all the crosses of this life, and fill you with his comforts in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Yours in many bonds,

Edward Winslow

Careswell, 11.28.1640

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<sup>3</sup> This was either son Edward, or son John, both of whom died at an unknown time after 1627. His son Josiah and daughter Elizabeth both lived to adulthood.

<sup>4</sup> This work was authored by the Pilgrims' pastor John Robinson and first published in 1618.

Sir,

I have deferred writing many times in hope of time to enlarge myself to you, but never more straitened than at present, yet ashamed to withhold any longer, but I pray you pardon my brevity. Concerning the Union our Magistrates and Deputies approve well of what is done, and two of our towns passed it before the court, viz. Plymouth and Marshfield: the rest of the Deputies carried it from the court to their towns to be confirmed, none doubting of it, and with order to return their votes this month, so that there is no doubt of our thorough close with you therein.

Concerning the cattle, I sent the five cows, a two year old heifer, and a yearling steer, by Roe according to your order, but one of the cows calved two days before, and he would not take the calf with him but left it, which was praised at 7s, another calf at 14s, and two other calves at 36s, and the two year old heifer at £3 15s, which in all amounted to £6 12s, the just sum which was due to me for the wintering of those seven beasts: Mr. Bulkley affirming that but to make even money he would not have yielded to so much. And for the skin of the beast that miscarried at winter I allow 13s 4d for it, which was due to me upon the former division. I would have enlarged but the tide is almost spent, and I have other letters must needs write, and so hope you will excuse me who saluting you in the Lord Jesus take leave and remain,

Yours to his power,

Edward Winslow

Careswell 13 (4) 43.

Mr. Collier and myself chosen Commissioners to confirm, and so for the following season.

*To the right Worshipful his much honored friend John Winthrop, Esqr. Governor of the Massachusetts these be.*

Worthy Sir,

Another opportunity offering itself I can do no less than write, hoping I am not troublesome therein, for if I be I should be much more if I lived near you in often discourse. Since the receipt of yours who intimate enlargement if time had permitted, I understood by Mr. Prence who had it from an Indian of good esteem amongst them, that the Narragansetts prepare for war, that the Mohawks have promised to aid them with a thousand men in the spring, that when they come near they will make a stand that so Uncas may have notice of it; whereupon they conceive he will flee to the English: that done they purpose to send a message to the English and demand Uncas, and as they receive answer so to proceed. Since this we hear from the Dutch that they have an army of an 120 men, English and Dutch against the Indians. These seek them and have slain 20 Indians with the loss of 2 English; they have also taken 4 Indian prisoners whom they make per force to be their guides. That Captain Patrick is slain by a Dutchman, being probably suspected to have a hand in directing the Indians in their late mischief, the manner thus, Patrick having holpen them to an Indian guide to bring them to a fort, led them amiss the whole night, at day knowing where they were, went again to Patrick's house, where a Dutchman called Patrick traitor. He returned the lie and spit in the Dutchman's face, whereat he bent his pistol and shot him in the head, so as he fell down dead and never spoke more: the delinquent was committed to the safe custody of Captain Underhill but since escaped.

Concerning Morton<sup>5</sup>, our Governor gave way that he should winter here, but be gone as soon as winter breaks up. Captain Standish takes great offense thereat, especially that he is so near him as Duxbury, and goeth sometimes a fowling in his ground. He cannot procure the least respect amongst our people, liveth meanly at 4s per week and content to drink water, so he may diet at that price. But admit he hath a protection yet it were worth the while to deal with him till we see it. The truth is I much question his pretended employment; for he hath here only showed the frame of a Commonwealth and some old sealed commissions, but no inside known. As for Mr. Rigby if he be so honest, good and hopeful an instrument as report passeth on him, he hath good hap to light on two of the errantest known knaves that ever trod on new English shore, to be his agents east and west, as Cleves and Morton: but I shall be jealous on him till I know him better, and hope others will take heed how they trust him who investeth such with power to have devoted themselves to the ruin of the country, as Morton hath. And for my part (who if my heart deceive me not can pass by all the evil instrumentally he brought on me) would not have this serpent stay amongst us, who out of doubt in time will get strength to him if he be suffered, who promiseth large portions of land about New Haven, Narragansett, etc. to all that will go with him, but hath a promise but of one person who is old, weak and decrepit, a very atheist and fit companion for him: but indeed Morton is the odium of our people at present, and if he be suffered (for we are diversely minded) it will be just with God who hath put him in our hands and we will foster such an one that afterward we shall suffer for it. But the messenger calls for my letter and I must break off, and therefore saluting you in the Lord take leave and remain,

Yours ever to be commanded,

Edward Winslow.

Careswell 7 (11) 43.

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<sup>5</sup> Thomas Morton.

I pray you Sir, in your next write whether ever the message were sent to the Mohawks, and as you have occasion salute our friends at Connecticut and New Haven from me, and if you judge any of these things material impart it.

*To the right Worshipful his much honored friend John Winthrop, Esq. Governor of the Massachusetts, these be.*

Worthy Sir,

About a month since I wrote to you, and now within a few days it came to my hands again, yet have I sent it, being glad of the present opportunity by Mr. Paddy to salute you and all yours in the Lord Jesus. And because we would save your Government a labor to send to us for the money due by bond from Mr. Bradford, myself, etc. to your Government upon Mr. Andrews gift; I have given Mr. Paddy a bill of exchange for the discharge of it, only because I know not the exact sum I have left a blank for it, and given him authority to insert it; that so he may take up the bond upon the delivery of the bill to yourself.

We heard you were upon your guard, but because we had no notice from yourself about it, it did not trouble us. We hear you have news from New Haven and Connecticut. I hope you will impart it to us if there be anything material; however shall be glad to hear of our brethren there.

Thus with my prayers to the Almighty for the continuance and increase of his mercies towards us, humbly take leave and rest,

Your assured,

Edward Winslow

Marshfield, 7 (12) 43.

*To his much honored friend John Winthrop, Esqr. Deputy Governor of the Massachusetts, these be.*

Worthy Sir,

Your loving letter and large manifestation of continued affection I received with much comfort after so long silence, no less desiring what communion can be maintained at such a distance as our all ordering God hath cast us. Your large letter I prized, and as I thank you for your great pains, so I cannot but sympathize with you in these ungrateful requitals you receive at the hands of some from whom you have better deserved: but I know you serve not men alone in what you do, and hope you have comfort between God and yourself in the greatest discomforts you here meet with. I thank God I have tasted of the same cup: and tho' it were bitter in the mouth, yet my own impatiency hath more troubled and grieved my spirit upon cool deliberation than all the rest. I beseech God to give you such a measure of spiritual strength and wisdom under the present temptations as to carry you more comfortably on; and then when these storms are blown over, the calm will be the more comfortable to you, and your adversaries more shamed of their turbulent courses, which the Lord in much mercy grant, and I doubt not but to see, if the Lord spare us life, in a short time.

I have been ill since our Court till this present, tho' now at Plymouth: whether I hastened so soon as God gave strength, because of some distractions I heard of amongst them upon their removal; where I find things better than I heard, and see no likelihood of the Churches departure at present, tho' they have given way to some unsettled brethren to go into the bottom of the Bay of Cape Cod. I write nothing to you about the determination of our Court concerning the beaver trade, because I have written to your Commissioners largely thereabout, and trust they will see cause to desist, assuring myself otherwise they will repent too late.

As for the Narragansetts etc. if there be occasion I shall willingly come over upon notice and have the passages in particular in writing as they were agitated at Hartford, which I shall endeavor to preserve: for I took their several allegations and defenses. Thus with my due respects to yourself and wife and all yours and theirs, saluting you and them in our common Savior, and desiring my salutation and due respects may be tendered to your Governor and Mr. Dudley, and other my known friends, take leave and remain,

Yours at his own,

Edward Winslow

Plymouth 28 (1) 45.

*To his much honored friend John Winthrop, Esqr. Governor of the Massachusetts, these be.*

Much Honored Sir,

Yours of the 3d of this present I received my Mr. Hutchinson, and remain thankful for your care and love manifested as often as you write.

Our election is over. Mr. Bradford Governor; the Assistants the same, save only Mr. Thomas instead of Mr. Freeman, whom I suppose the country left out in regard of his professed Anabaptistry and Separation from the Churches. Mr. Brown and Mr. Hatherley are our Commissioners for the year.

We have a sad accident here befallen the Captain of the man of war, who reproving and commanding one of his company silence, who most notoriously abusing his person, command, and whole company (being a troubler of earth, air, and sea whilest he lived), took the man's rapier out of his hand, which he offered to draw upon his Captain, and first struck him with it in the scabbard: but he continuing his ragings and vilifying his person and company chiefly, struck him with the hilt of it on the head, the blow falling on the cross bar most unhappily pierced his skull, and he is dead thereof. But however he was never out of quarrels at sea as they say, or on shore since they came in hither, having been twice in the field tho' not at sharp, though the wishes of others who detained his rapier from him, yet the quest found he died of the stroke given by the Capt. Cromwell. This morning we purpose to send for him whom we hear attendeth his trial, only desireth these two favors, that he be not committed to the ordinary prison nor put into the hands of the Marshall, but into the custody of such as will be bound body for body for him. The 2d is that he be not tried by a petty jury, but by a Council of War according to the nature of his offence and place, wherein I commend him, and I conceive it may be granted him, but if his commission be so full as we hear by those of ours which have seen it, viz. as full power for the exercise of marshal discipline by sea and land over his company as any general on the shore or admiral on the seas, it will soon be ended.

Their purpose is yet unknown to themselves, in that one of their prizes holds being unbroken up, but cannot be so little worth, as some of their soberest men report, as fifty thousand pounds. And thus much for news at present, their deboist humor being well blunted before they come to you, for which you are beholden to us, and the people from disparate rudeness become civil in a pretty measure, and now as wary, as prodigal at their first landing. Many of our worsor sort of people which could endure their cursing etc. getting well by them, but the better sort very little, for they want little or nothing which the company hath, but wine, which they begin to be weary of.

Your debtor Cole I suppose is now well able to pay, if you put him in mind of it, having taken at least £200 as is supposed of them.

The bearer hereof being an industrious and well affected young man desired me to entreat you to further him in a seeming just demand: he being lately married, it seems there is one Samuel Crum, a wine cooper, lately come from sea, and a kinsman of his wife's, that is departed this life with you. Whereupon in his wife's behalf he desireth letters of administration, he having no other kindred so nearly allied in the country, and therefore I pray you show him all lawful favor. His name is James Waker, and I shall take any kindness to him as done to myself, and therefore I beseech you, being he is a stranger and young, put him in some course to accomplish it.

I trust when Mr. Dudley goeth to Mr. de Alney he will put an end also to our controversy with him, and make but one work of both. But I shall impart it to our Governor, etc. Thus saluting you and yours heartily, take leave and remain.

Yours as ever,

Edward Winslow

Plymouth this 4 (4) 46.

*To his much honored friend John Winthrop Esqr. Governor of the Massachusetts, at his house at Boston, these be.*

Worthy Sir,

I was sorry to see you so much disturbed and troubled in your spirit (as appeared by your last to our Governor) at our proceedings with Goodman Cheeseborough: and so also at some passage about the rest in our general letter to you, when as nothing is more ordinary than for yours to come to us, and ours to you, and all without offense on our part: and I assure you, to me it is indifferent, and I thank God I rejoice as well in your prosperity as our own: and with all good conscience can say I sympathize with you in every condition. And if at any time difference do arise, it is not without great grief of spirit: and therefore far be it from me to consent to his censure because he brought your letters etc., but the truth is hearing both sides speak (which you did not) I believe things are far otherwise than as they were presented to you: but this I am sure, in mine own opinion (which is but weak) he was favorably dealt with, yea so favorably as less could not stand with his personal safety, in respect of revenge and the weal public of the Country, in this uncertain season. But I leave the answer of yours to our Governor who I suppose will fully satisfy.

The main occasion of my writing (besides the whetting of and quickening of our affections towards each other) being partly to condole the evil that I long fear concerning Gorton, for want of some due course and able person to prosecute it, to inform against him and render a season of your proceedings with him and the rest, well knowing how potent a friend he was sure to find, and I pray God the same his friend prove not otherwise you and us, but I fear, I fear, only herein I rest, he can act no more than God hath determined; yet because the relation I have is possibly imperfect, I could be glad if time will permit to receive a word about it from you. A 2d thing which moved me to put pen to paper is to entreat you to be better prepared, (at least to stave off prejudice) against your Government in the Committee of Parliament in regard of the petitioners and many others who are very busy, who not only threaten us as well as you, but grossly abuse us and insult and boast as if the victory were attained before the enterprise is begin if I may so say: for I confess I received a very proud letter lately, which makes me fear things are not to begin: but I will not mention any particulars in it at present, but leave it till God bring us together, when you shall also see my answer to it. If you say: twill be time enough to answer when we are accused and we shall not be condemned before we are heard? Tis true; but if prejudice once take place in their bosoms it will be hardly rooted out, when it may be easily prevented by right information of such men of wisdom and courage as may be sent. The common error always entreat such persons as have business of their own to carry them over to do some what in the public business: but this business will appear to be of such consequence if well weighed as your ablest men may not escape it, neither must you stand upon the charge. If you do I conceive you will also too late repent it. But I am over bold with you I confess, only tis my love to your State which sets me a-work, and ergo hope the same affection in you will cover my infirmity. But it may be you will say, I hope you of Plymouth will be well provided, etc. Truly Sir I fear no, and therefore press the harder upon you; not that we intend to trouble you with our business, who know not our proceedings, ergo not capable of making defense for us: but etc. and we are so many (since we followed your example in one particular, which we too late repent,) to consult, as tis very hard for any to say what will be done, tho' he should know what is most wholesome for us. And ergo it much concerns us to be instant at the Throne of Grace, that our

all ordering God would set us in a right way: which the Lord in much mercy grant to you and us.  
Thus saluting you and yours, with all my honored friends with you, take leave and remain,

Yours till death,

Edward Winslow

June ult. 1646.

I should be glad to hear how your son Mr. Joh. Winthrop, my dear friend, proceedeth in his plantation at Pequot. I pray you when you write to him salute him from me.

Sir, when you have done with your books of news I should take it very kindly to have the perusing of some of the chiefest of them, and return them if you desire it.