

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Randolph, Edward, "Report on New England," 1676

LOCATION:

Misc. mss. boxes "R"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

1 volume (28 p.)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For biography of Randolph, see *DAB*, vol. 15, p. 356-357. This report was printed in Thomas Hutchinson, ed., *Collection of Original Papers*.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Unknown

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Edward Randolph (c. 1632-1703) was appointed English agent to Massachusetts Bay in 1676 to carry instructions requiring the colonial government to send agents to England to answer several complaints. Randolph was also required to write a complete report on the colony, including its administration, commerce, and finances. As a result, he attempted to have the colony's charter annulled and was instrumental in the establishment of the regime of Governor Edmund Andros (1673-1714).

Edward Randolph's "Report on New England to the Privy Council," 1676, was organized into a question and answer format with detailed comments on colonial laws that were contrary to English laws, census reports, military provisions, boundary disputes, lack of cooperation with French neighbors, reasons for Indian troubles and terms of treaties, and aspects of the colony's economy. Also included is Randolph's assessment of repeated violations of the Navigation Acts, church government, and Harvard University business. The report contains a letter to the king describing Randolph's "ungracious" reception by Massachusetts officials, his recommendation for a general government to control the region, and a petition dated 1666 and signed by one hundred colonials requesting officials to cooperate with the king. This appears to be a contemporary manuscript copy of Randolph's report.