To the Right Honorable the Councell for the foreign Plantations

The humble peticon of Gyles Silvester Merchant for and on the behalfe of himselfe and divers other of the Inhabitants of Shelter Island neere the Colony of New Haven in New England.

Mr. Silvester

Humbly sheweth

That the Late King Charles the first, of Blessed memory did many yeares since by Letters patents graunte to the Lord Sterling (amongst other things) the said Island called shelter Island and that the said Lord Sterling did employ an Agent, whose possesse thereof, and purchased the Indians right and title therein, and Continued in possession thereof, for several yeares: But for want of seasonable supplies, which hee expected from the Lord Sterling; hee was forced to dissert the same Islands; and did sell the same to M. Stephen Goodyere, whose was then Deputy Governor of New haven aforesaid whoe beeing possesse thereof, Did in the yeare 1651: sell the same Island unto Colonell Thomas Middleton Esq whoe by himselfe and partners Did att their very greate Charges settle a plantation upon the said Island. under whome yo. pet. claymeth his intreset. since which tyme the Government of New haven have endeavored to bring yo. pet. and other the inhabitants on the said Island; under their Jurisdiction But yo. pet. well knoweing they had noe right soe to doe, did refuse to yeild obedience thereunto; whereupon divers persons under the Government of New haven, and by vertue of an order from the same Government. did forceibly enter upon the said Island, and broke open yo. pet. house laying violent hands upon the said Inhabitants. And have seized and confiscate all the estates they could finde of yo. pet. within the power of the Jurisdiction of the said Government of New haven (with whome yo. pet. had Comerce), and doe still most wrongfully deteyne the same, and have allsoe most unustly and forceibly entred upon, and dispossessed yo. pet. of, about Three Thowsand acres of ground very good Land beeing upon Longe Island; which yo. pet. lawfully purchased of the Indian King of those partes; Which King did then openly declare to yo. pet. Gyles Silvester in the presence of severall of the persons under the Government of New haven, That hee had been instigated by them, to destroy the inhabitants upon yo. pet. said plantation: to the very greate danger and prejudice of yo. pet. and the rest of the said inhabitants, in their lives, just rights, and estates.

Your pet. therefore most humbly pray that yo. hono. wilbe pleased to take the p'mises into yo. grave and serious Consideracons and to make such provision, in the behalfe of yo. pet. as to yo. hono. shall seeme most meet whereby yo. pet. may bee restored to their said Lands and goods soe from them most wrongefully and unustly deteyned And receive satisfacon from the said Government of new haven for the greate and insupportable injuries by them done to yo. pet. and likewise that yo. pet. may for the future bee preserved from the like vyalenties and outrages untill his Ma. shalbe gratiously pleased to settle the Government of those partes, To which yo. pet. shalbe ever ready to yeild most due obedience

And yo. pet. in duty bound shall pray &cs
Connecticut
(1660.)
Am & W. Indies