agitating Boston in the pre-Revolutionary period. Often consulted by scholars in transcripts and.reams, they constitute one of the most important sources on the period yet this edition is the first comprehensive collection. This book, together with the following volumes, will help the scholar in American history make a leap forward in understanding the events leading up to the Revolution.

In the late 1750s, Francis Bernard, as governor of Massachusetts, began to witness the rapid dissipation of good feelings stemming from Anglo-American victory in the French and Indian War. The effects of the war were not only felt in the colonies, but also in the British government, which was forced to reevaluate its imperial policies. Bernard's letters and other incidental papers provide an abundant insight into the personalities and bitter controversies of the time.

Sir Francis Bernard (1712–1779), royal governor of colonial Massachusetts from 1760 to 1769, witnessed the rapid dissipation of good feelings stemming from Anglo-American victory in the French and Indian War. The effects of the war were not only felt in the colonies, but also in the British government, which was forced to reevaluate its imperial policies. Bernard's letters and other incidental papers provide an abundant insight into the personalities and bitter controversies of the time.

This is the first of three volumes of selected papers to be followed upon completion by a calendar of documents covering his life and career. The project is "one of the most important in the Society's distinguished publishing history." British historian Stephen Conway considers "The Bernard Papers" "a tremendously significant piece of work, and once completed a British scholar will have published the single most important addition to the growing literature on the Revolution in Massachusetts, but he may well be the most important paper in the whole series of imperial papers collected in England." Colin Nicolson is the author of "The Infamous Governor: Francis Bernard and the Origins of the American Revolution" (Boston, 2001) and lectures at the University of Stirling, Scotland. He lives in Edinburgh with his wife and two daughters.