

THE
HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND

FROM
1630 TO 1649.

BY
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FROM
HIS ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS.

WITH NOTES

TO ILLUSTRATE
THE CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL CONCERNS, THE GEOGRAPHY, SETTLE-
MENT, AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRY, AND THE LIVES
AND MANNERS OF THE PRINCIPAL PLANTERS.

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A NEW EDITION,
WITH ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS BY THE FORMER EDITOR.

VOL. I.

Sæpe audiui, Q. Maximum, P. Scipionem, præterea civitatæ nostræ præclaros viros, solitos ita dicere,
cum majorum imagines intuerentur, vehementissime sibi animum ad virtutem accendi.

Sallust, Bell. Jugurth. c. iv.

BOSTON:
LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY.

MDCCCLIII.

These ships, by reason of their short passage, had store of provisions left, which they put off at easy rates, viz. biscuit at 20s. the hundred; beef at £6 the hogshead, etc.

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Newtown men, being straitened for ground, sent some to Merimack to find a fit place to transplant themselves.

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June 1.] The Thunder, which went to Bermuda the 17th October, now returned, bringing corn and goats from Virginia, (for the weavils had taken the corn at Bermuda before they came there). Ensign Jenyson¹ went in her for pilot, and related, at his return, that there was a very great change in Bermuda since he dwelt there, divers lewd persons || being || become good Christians. They have three ministers, (one a Scotchman,) who ||² take || great pains among them, and had lately (by *134 prayer and fasting) dispossessed one possessed ||³ with || a devil. They obtained his recovery while the congregation were assembled.²

He brought news, also, of a great ship arrived in Patomack

|| having ||

||³ took ||

||³ of ||

¹ William Jennison was of Watertown, from which he was a deputy in the second and many subsequent courts, with higher titles than in the text, as lieutenant and captain.

² If this be the story of the traveller, not the belief of the author, giving it civilly, without throwing any shadow on it, we should rejoice at the completeness of the narrative, rather than exhibit regret for its credulity. The miracle wrought by the prayer and fasting of three ministers at Bermuda, has never, to my knowledge, been brought up against Protestantism, though it may be rejected with as much contempt as the numerous ones produced, at a later day, by the Jansenists in France. It has been remarked by a disbeliever, that, while the church of Rome asserts, from its foundation to our times, the regular succession of miraculous gifts of all kinds, the reformed are contented with exorcisms. What kind of *possession* this was, thus exorcised at Bermuda, we know not, unless we infer, from the mode of cure, that the operators attempted a recovery of that species (epilepsy) related by Matthew, xvii. 21, and Mark, ix. 29. Better signs, or better proof, are wanted in such cases, if, for our reception, a modern instance of hearing prayer in heaven is offered; though the weak and the cunning, the deluded or the deluders, have, in all ages, abounded in such impositions. The credibility of the evangelists is supported by the very means, which, to a careless observer, might seem to detract from it; and the truth is more resplendent, when the counterfeit is detected.

River in Virginia, with a governour and colony sent by the Lord Bartimore,¹ who was expected there shortly himself, and that they resisted those of Virginia, who came to trade in that river.

It appeared after, that the king had written to Sir John Harvy,² || knight, || governour of Virginia, to give all assistance to that new plantation, which was called Maryland by the queen of England; and those who came over were, many of them, Papists, and did set up mass openly.

July.] The Hercules of Dover returned by St. George's to cut masts to carry to England.

The last month arrived here fourteen great ships,³ and one at Salem.

Mr. Humfrey and the lady Susan, his wife, one of the Earl of Lincoln's sisters, arrived here. He brought more ordnance, *135 muskets, and powder, bought for the public by moneys given to that end; for godly people in England began now to apprehend a special hand of God in raising this plantation, and their hearts were generally stirred to come ||² over ||. Among others, we received letters from a godly preacher, Mr. Levinston, a Scotchman in the north of Ireland, whereby he signified, that there were many good Christians in those parts resolved to come hither, if they might receive satisfaction concerning some questions and propositions which they sent over. Likewise, Mr. Humfrey brought certain propositions⁴ from some

|| king's ||

||² to us ||

¹ Cecil, son of George, Lord Baltimore, against whom nothing can be learned from history but the father's conscientious conversion, and the heir's adherence, to the Romish religion. For their just deserts, which the liberal inhabitants of Maryland will never forget, the reader is referred to Belknap's *American Biography*, II. 363-380. Candor must be extended to some passages of this History, in which the spirit of the age will appear more prominently than justice.

² This gentleman, who had been named by King James, in his last year, of the council for the immediate government of Virginia, *Haz.* I. 189, was, by Charles, appointed governour, 26 March, 1627. *Ib.* 234. A new commission for the same place was given him nine years after. *Ib.* 400.

³ One of these was the Planter. The bill of lading for the government stores, put on board by Humfrey, who was, probably, a passenger, was dated 7 April. See the account of Treasurer Pyncheon, in 2 *Mass. Hist. Coll.* VIII. 228.

⁴ For these propositions of certain peers, and others of the English nobility, Maryland State Archives: *Documents for the Classroom*, MSA SC 2221-3-1-3

Boston, having appointed a meeting here the week before, but by reason of foul weather were driven back. They had written to Capt. Wiggin of Pascataquack about the meeting for hearing the cause of Hockin's death.

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Corn was this year at four shillings the bushel, and some at three shillings, and some cheaper.

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[August] 29.] The || Dove, || a pinnacle of about fifty tons, came from Maryland upon Patomack River, with corn, to exchange for fish and other commodities. The governour, Leonard Calvert,¹ and two of the commissioners, wrote to the governour here, to make offer of trade of corn, etc., and the governour of Virginia wrote also on their behalf, and one Capt. Young wrote to make offer to deliver cattle here. Near all their company came sick hither, and the merchant died within one week after.

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*140 September 4.] The general court began² at Newtown, and continued a week, and then was adjourned ||²fourteen|| days. Many things were there agitated and concluded, as fortifying in Castle Island, Dorchester, and Charlestown; also against tobacco, and costly apparel, and immodest fashions; and

|| D—— ||

||²eleven||

¹ This gentleman was the brother of Cecil, Lord Baltimore, mentioned in the note on page 134, sent by the patentee as his governour. His name will recur in the progress of this History; but I regret that any information of the events of his administration is confined to its policy, applauded by Belknap, and the minute, but imperfect narrative in Bozman's History of Maryland. The Hon. Charles Calvert, governour of Maryland, a descendant, died 2 February, 1732. A tomb, erected at Annapolis, bore inscriptions in honor of himself and wife, which may be seen in the American Magazine, printed at Boston, 1743, page 74. I believe reputable descendants of this family perpetuate its fame in Maryland.

² By the Col. Records, I. 126, the day of assembling is the 3d, not 4th, of September. But it is more important to observe, that no names of deputies appear; so that I regard it only as a second session of the court, adjourned in May, and therefore give the distinction of *second* court to that in March following. Many new members appeared then, and so we find the fact in every succeeding meeting for many years. Perhaps one or more new delegates appeared at this court from some town not represented at the May session.

spent, God brought him to Scituate; but he had torn his legs much, etc. Other harm he had none.

October 5.] It being found, that the four lectures did spend too much time, and proved ||over|| burdensome to the ministers and people, the ministers, with the advice of the magistrates, and with consent of their congregations, did agree to reduce them to two days, viz., Mr. Cotton at Boston one Thursday, or the 5th day of the week, and Mr. Hooker at Newtown the next 5th day, and Mr. Warham at Dorchester one 4th day of the week, and Mr. Welde at Roxbury the next 4th day.

Mr. Lathrop, who had been pastor of a private congregation in London, and for the same kept long time in prison, (upon refusal of the oath ex-officio,) being at Boston upon a sacrament day, after the sermon, etc., desired leave of the congregation to be present at the administration, etc., but said that he durst not desire to partake in it, because he was not then in order, (being dismissed from his former congregation,) and he thought it not fit to be suddenly admitted into any other, for example sake, and because of the deceitfulness of man's heart. He went to Scituate, being desired to be their pastor.

[October] 14.] It was informed the governour, that some of our people, being aboard the bark of Maryland, the sailors did revile them, calling them holy brethren, the members, etc., and withal did curse and swear most horribly, and use threatening speeches against us. The governour wrote to some of the assistants about it, and, upon advice with the ministers, it was agreed to *145 call them in question; and to this end (because we knew not how to get them out of their bark) we apprehended the merchant of the ship, being ||²on shore,|| and committed him to the marshal, till Mr. Maverick came and undertook that the offenders should be forthcoming.¹ The next day (the governour not being well) we examined the witnesses, and found them fall short of the matter of threatening, and not to agree about the reviling speeches, and, beside, not able to design certainly the men that had so offended. Whereupon (the bark

||very||

||²one Store||

¹ The process was more effectual than regular.

staying only || upon || this) the bail was discharged, and a letter written to the master, that, in regard such disorders were committed aboard his ship, it was his duty to inquire out the offenders and punish them; and withal to desire him to bring no more such disordered persons among us.

* Mr. Wilson's hay, being stacked up not well dried, fell on fire, to his great prejudice at this season; fired by his own servants, etc., as they intended to prevent firing.*

The weather was very fine and hot, without rain, near six weeks.

The Lords Say and Brook wrote to the governour and Mr. Bellingham,¹ that howsoever they might have sent a man of
|| for ||

¹ Gov. Richard Bellingham's worth is exhibited in the annals of his country, of which he was the last surviving patentee named in the charter, "having spun," says Hubbard, 610, "a long thread of above eighty years." His talents were adapted less for eloquence than advice, as the same writer expresses it, "like a vessel whose vent holdeth no good proportion with its capacity." Hubbard, after observing that his qualifications, as a governour, were rather lessened by his melancholy humour, continues: "He had been bred a lawyer, yet turned strangely, although upon very pious considerations, as some have judged, out of the ordinary road thereof, in the making of his last will and testament, which defect, if there were any, was abundantly supplied by the power of the general court, so as that no prejudice did arise to his successors about his estate." A fact inconsistent with the correctness of the closing suggestion, is, by the recent editor, in the note to Amer. Ed. Hutch. I. 247, asserted. Bellingham and his wife, Elizabeth, who died in a few years, were received into Boston church, 3 August of this year, so that a wrong date of his arrival is given by Eliot; but more observation is deserved by a casual sentence about this gentleman from the same author. He calls him "a very learned man, compared with his contemporaries in New England." This is uttered without the caution that usually distinguishes our New England biographer. Several of the laity were equals, in my opinion, of Bellingham; and,—without naming some of the worthies of Plimouth, Rhode Island, Connecticut, or New Haven,—both the Winthrops, Bradstreet, and Saltonstall his superiors. I speak confidently, but advisedly, that, if we include the clergy, who surely had as good a share of letters as their brethren educated at the same universities of Oxford and Cambridge, there were in New England, at any time between 1630 and 1690, as many sons of those two famous nurseries of learning as would be found in a proportionate number of their fellow subjects in the mother country. Besides which our own college, for four fifths of the time, sent out streams, many of which flowed to make glad the land of their fathers.

In the eulogium of this worthy, by Hubbard, "a notable hater of bribes"

found that they did corrupt some of our people, especially the women, by their heresies.¹§

About a week after, we sent men to fetch so many of their cattle as might defray our charges, both of the soldiers and of the court, which spent many days about them, and for their expenses in prison. It came to in all about 160 pounds. There were three who escaped out of the house; these being sent for to come in, two of them did so, and one of them, because his hand was not to the letters, was freely discharged, the other was sent home upon his own bond to appear at the next court, (only some of his cattle were taken towards the charges). There was a fourth who had his hand to the first letter, but he died before our soldiers went, and we left his whole estate to his wife and children. Their arms were all taken from them, and of their guns the court gave one fowling piece to Pumham and another to Saconoco, and liberty granted them to have powder as being now within our jurisdiction.

The Lord Bartemore being owner of much land near Virginia, being himself a papist, and his brother Mr. Calvert the governour there a papist also, but the colony consisted both of protestants and papists, he wrote a letter to Captain

¹ It is strange, that so important a part of the history, though given in the margin of the original MS. should have been omitted in the former edition, for it fills the measure of our ancestor's policy. Part of the truth is told indeed in a later paragraph, but the whole is better. Though death had been threatened for speaking, yet when they were known to have corrupted some of the flock, these misguided prisoners were liberated, because their keepers were in danger.

From the terms of the court's order, which I extract from Vol. II. 44, it should be inferred that no place but England was left for the unhappy schismatics. To England they went, and we must rejoice that they obtained justice. "It is ordered that Samuel Gorton and the rest of that company, who now stand confined, shall be set at liberty, provided that if they, or any of them, shall after fourteen days after such enlargement come within any part of our jurisdiction, either in the Massachusetts, or in or near Providence, or any of the lands of Pumham or Sachonoco, or elsewhere within our jurisdiction, then such person or persons shall be apprehended, wheresoever they may be taken, and shall suffer death by course of law, provided also that during all their continuance in our bounds inhabiting for the said time of fourteen days, they shall be still bound to the rest of the articles of their former confinement upon the penalty therein expressed."

Gibbons of Boston, and sent him a commission, wherein he made tender of land in Maryland to any of ours that would transport themselves thither, with free liberty of religion, and all other privileges which the place afforded, paying such annual rent as should be agreed upon; but our captain had no mind to further his desire herein, nor had any of our people temptation that way.

5. 13.] One Captain John Chaddock, son of him that was governour of Bermuda, a godly gentleman, but late removing from them with his family and about 100 more to Trinidad, where himself and wife and most of his company died, arrived here in a man of war of about 100 tons, set forth by the Earl of Warwick. He came hither for planters for Trinidad, (Mr. Humfrey having told the Earl that he might be supplied from hence,) but here was not any that would enter upon that voyage, etc. So La Tour having a pinnace here at the same time, they hired Captain Chaddock for two months at 200 pounds the month, partly to convoy the pinnace home from the danger of D'Aulnay his vessels, and partly for other service against D'Aulnay there. But when they came, they found D'Aulnay gone into France, and a new fort raised at Port Royal, and a pinnace ready to go forth to trade, so they kept her in so long till the season was over and his two months out, and then he returned to Boston. When he was come in near the town, his men going up upon the main yard to hand in the sail, the main tie brake, and the yard falling down shook off five men into the sea, and though it were calm and smooth water, yet not having their boat out, three of them were drowned. One of these had taken some things out of the deserted castle, as they went out. Notwithstanding this sad accident, yet so soon as they came on shore, they fell to drinking, etc., and that evening, the captain and his master being at supper and having drank too
 *150 much, the captain began to speak evil of the country, swearing fearfully, that we were a base heathen people. His master answered that he had no reason to say so, for it was the best place that ever he came in. Upon these and other speeches the captain arose and drew his sword, and the master drew forth his pistol, but the company staying them from doing any mischief, the captain sware blood and wounds he would kill