A

DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

SEPTEMBER 6TH, 1846.

BY GEORGE FOLSOM.

"But I doubt not * * * it will prove a very flourishing place, and be replenished with many faire Towns and Cities, it being a Province both fruitful and pleasant."

F. GOROES. *Description of the Province of Maine.*

PORTLAND:

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1847.

At a meeting of the MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, holden at Brunswick, Sept. 6th, 1846, ———

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the Hon. GEORGE FOLSOM, of New York, for his highly valuable and interesting DISCOURSE, delivered before them this day, and that he be respectfully requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication.

JOS. McKEEN, *Recording Secretary.*

DISCOURSE.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Historical Society:

Indifference to the past, considered as a national characteristic, is a mark of rudeness and incivilization. A purely savage people live only in the present moment. The satisfaction of immediate wants, the enjoyment of the passing hour, make up the sum total of their existence. They have no monuments of former generations, and they leave none of themselves. To them, the deeds of forefathers, the exploits of other times, the good or evil that marked an earlier day, afford no examples and impart no instruction. It is as if none had lived before them, and none were to come after. Equally indifferent to the future, they make no provision for a day beyond that which already dawns upon them, and care as little for the next generation as the last.

Such are mankind in their natural and uncultivated state. But as they emerge into the light of civilization, a change comes over the scene. An enlarged horizon exhibits new objects to the view. Their gaze is no longer fixed, animal-like, upon the narrow compass of earth that suffices for present indulgence; but looking upward towards Heaven, as well as around upon the outspreading landscape, they begin

to feel the sublimity of their intellectual nature, and to call into exercise the faculties that God has endowed them with, but of which they were before unconscious. Now awakens the thirst of knowledge,—the strong and insatiable desire to grasp at something beyond mere existence. The well-spring of thought bubbles up, stimulating and fertilizing the perceptions, and a thousand imaginations and conceits pour forth in undisciplined confusion. Reason and reflection soon, however, assert their rights, and the plastic hand of cultivation moulds all into shape and order.

The present moment is now no longer the limit of of the mind's ken. It supplies too gross a material for the exercise of the awakened powers, and the imagination scorns to feed upon it. Stretching back to the past, or diving deep into futurity, it delights to take to itself the wings of fancy, and revel and riot amid the scenes that bear it away from the sensualities and follies, the cares and distractions, of the fleeting moment. It conjures up the realities of a by-gone age, and seeks to learn the motives, the principles, the habits, both of body and mind, and all that was comprised in the career of those who once lived and flourished, but have long slumbered in the Valley of Silence. It was at this stage of progress, that the Father of History unfolded his luminous page, and recited to his assembled countrymen the glorious deeds and chivalric achievements of their departed sires, or traced the daring exploits of the half-fabulous heroes who made Greece the arena for the display of superhuman courage and unrivalled prowess. It is needless to add that the land rung with praises of the man, who had thus successfully appealed both to

the new-born thirst for historic lore, and to that other and scarcely less civilized sentiment, THE LOVE OF ONE'S OWN NATIVE LAND.

Advancing improvement strengthens the desire to converse with departed excellence, and national pride leads to the erection of lasting monuments to perpetuate its fame. Memorials are sought on every hand, but, alas! it too often happens that inattention or neglect, on the part of contemporaries, occasions the loss of what a subsequent age would be sure to prize as the precious reliques of genius or distinguished merit. How little is known, for instance, of the private history of England's great dramatist, and with what eagerness are the faintest traces of his every-day life sought and treasured up! Yet with a little care exercised either in his own day, or by those of the next succeeding generation, enough might have been preserved to enable his admirers, in all ages, to form a correct conception of the life and personal character of the man whose genius is the proudest boast of English literature.

Great national events likewise often fail of a proper appreciation from the want of due care in preserving the memorials of their occurrence. To the historical student many cases in point will suggest themselves. The history of American discovery may be mentioned as singularly deficient in the requisite materials for its elucidation. The important voyages of Sebastian Cabot and Americus Vespucius are involved in much obscurity from this cause, and the chart or map drawn by the former to illustrate his discoveries, has long been classed among the things "lost on earth." Navarrete, in Spain, has done much to rescue from

oblivion the services rendered by his countrymen, in the discovery of the New World; but had the work been commenced at an earlier period, the results would doubtless have been far more satisfactory and complete.

In this country, something has already been done towards the preservation of the materials of history; and it is gratifying to find an increased interest awakened in the subject, and a higher appreciation of its importance entertained, at the present time, than at any former period. It marks to some extent the character of the age, and affords, according to the general views just presented, an indication of progress, a sign of intellectual growth, in our social character. The Documentary History, now in the course of publication under the auspices of the general government, is a work of which any country might be proud; and if completed according to the plan of its intelligent editor,* it will be a noble monument to the liberality and enlightened patriotism of our national legislature. The states individually have also awakened to the importance of collecting and preserving their public records, and in some of the older commonwealths considerable appropriations have been made of late years to defray the expense of arranging and making secure what is too often regarded as the useless lumber of antiquity. It is certainly desirable, in every point of view, economical as well as historical, that a similar course should be pursued in the public offices of all our states; for often the preservation of a single document may lead to results of

* Peter Force, Esq., late Mayor of the city of Washington.

greater value than all the labor and expense required to effect this object.

The publications of the English Record Commissions are an example of what may be accomplished by a great and enlightened nation for the preservation of its public records. The work was commenced in the year 1800, and was continued nearly forty years, during which time there were printed of the ancient records of the kingdom, commencing with the reign of William the Conqueror, one hundred and eleven volumes, of which eighty-six are in folio; and the amount expended by the government in connexion with this object, during that period, is estimated at nearly a million of pounds sterling, or about five millions of dollars. The same liberal and munificent spirit that has led to the achievement of this great enterprise, not satisfied with having provided for the security of the documents contained in those massive volumes, by their publication, has also governed their distribution; for copies were sent to most of the colleges and many other literary institutions of this country, which certainly had no claim upon the liberality of the British government. This great work has raised another monument to the far-famed national spirit of that monarchy, which ever seeks, by appropriate means, to foster and sustain the reputation of her sons and the glory of her ancient name.

The long connexion of the people of this country with the European governments, of which they were colonies, renders our own archives incomplete without resorting to those abroad; and hence some of the State Legislatures have so far interested themselves in this subject, as to send agents to the mother

countries to procure copies of documents illustrative of their early history. The Legislature of New York appropriated about fifteen thousand dollars for this purpose, and her Agent was employed three years in the performance of his labors, during which time he examined the archives of London, Paris, and the Hague, and brought home an invaluable collection of State Papers, and other documents of great value and interest. Georgia, likewise, with commendable liberality, has instituted a similar agency abroad, which resulted in the acquisition of twenty-two folio manuscript volumes, obtained from the English offices, and deposited by the direction of the Legislature with the Historical Society of that state. Massachusetts, distinguished for her enlightened legislation, and ever alive to whatever promotes the cause of learning and education, has established a similar agency in London and Paris; and it is believed that many other States are prepared to adopt the same course.

But the most striking evidence of the attention now bestowed on the subject of historical investigation in this country, is found in the organization of Historical Societies throughout the Union, having in view the specific object of collecting and preserving the materials of history. The Massachusetts society was the first in the field: it has already published twenty-nine volumes of Collections, containing a prodigious mass of information, relating chiefly to the history of New England. One of its founders, and its first President, was a native of this State; I refer to the late James Sullivan, then a resident of Boston, and afterwards Governor of Massachusetts. This gentleman also produced a history of this State, then the

District of Maine, which although far from being a faultless work, was highly creditable to the industry and patriotism of its Author. Associated with Sullivan in founding and sustaining that Society, were Belknap, Eliot, Freeman, Minot, Tudor, Thacher, Kirkland, Winthrop, Davis, Quincy, Savage, Bradford, Harris, and others, who formed a phalanx of intellectual strength and erudition not often surpassed.*

The New York Historical Society was founded at a somewhat later period than that of Massachusetts, but was the next in order of time, and is now in the forty-second year of its existence. Among those who were among its earliest members, (but now deceased,) may be named Egbert Benson, John Pintard, Rufus King, De Witt Clinton, Dr. Hosack, Bishop Hobart, Daniel D. Tompkins, Dr. Mitchell, Brockholst Livingston, and Peter A. Jay. The President of this society, at the present time, is the Hon. Albert Gallatin, who at a very advanced age finds solace in literary pursuits, to which his time is chiefly devoted.† The Library of this institution is large, and rich in American history; and is the resort of historical students from

* See an excellent sketch of the history of the Massachusetts Society, by the Rev. William Jenks, D. D., in the twenty-seventh volume of its Collections. Dr. Jenks states, that the Rev. Dr. Belknap, author of a well known and highly esteemed History of New Hampshire, "has been uniformly regarded as the principal founder of that Society."

† This gentleman is also President of the American Ethnological Society, established at New York. The first volume of the Transactions of that learned association appeared last year, consisting chiefly of an elaborate essay upon the languages, astronomy, &c. of the ancient inhabitants of Mexico and Central America, by Mr. Gallatin. This remarkable work, involving much abstruse learning, and acute discrimination, is one of the greatest trophies of an intellectual old age the world ever saw; having been composed by the venerable author in his *eighty-fifth* year.

all parts of the country. Its members are numerous, and the papers read at its monthly meetings usually attract a large concourse of persons of literary taste and habits. Besides its volumes of Collections, this Society publishes an anual report of its transactions, containing the Papers read during the year.

I have spoken more particularly of the societies of Massachusetts and New York, as being the oldest in the country; but there are many others of a more recent date, which are equally efficient and useful. They bring together much of the learning and talent of their respective States, and afford to politicians a neutral ground on which they can meet without danger of hostile collision; for surely nothing is better fitted to inspire proper feelings in the hearts of the living, than the contemplation of the virtues of those who have preceded them on the stage of active life, and patriotism itself is kindled by surveying the trophies and memorials which a grateful country exhibits to exalt the fame of her distinguished sons. We have no Westminster Abbey to perpetuate the remembrance of valor, genius, or beneficence; even Washington sleeps in a common tomb with his kindred, and of his distinguished associates in the field, how few of us can tell where their remains now repose! If Historical Associations should do no more than point out the resting places of departed merit, disencumbering the humble tomb-stone of its moss, and freshening the sod that lies upon the grave of genius, they will perform a truly grateful though it may be humble office, and be the means of holding up to public view examples worthy of imitation.

The Society I have the honor to address was insti-

tuted in 1822, and numbered among its early friends and founders some of the most eminent names in the State. It has already rendered good service by the publication of a volume that sheds much light on the early history of a large portion of Maine; and should its organization give birth to nothing beyond that volume, so replete with the fruits of patient research, its existence would be marked by no idle or unsatisfactory result. But there is no reason it should stop here; there is much more work for it to perform before its destiny be accomplished. There is no part of our country whose history is more diversified, and instructive, than these Northern shores; none less known, or full of more exciting incident. The long subjection of Maine to a rival colony, gave it less interest and importance in the eyes of the general historian than it deserved to possess; but having at length resumed its original independence, with the means of developing its vast resources, and extending its wealth and population, this State must hereafter occupy a prominent position in our country, and a conspicuous place on the page of history.

I propose in the remainder of this discourse to call your attention to some of the facts connected with the early discovery and settlement of Maine, and the character of those who were most active in the work of colonization.

To Columbus belongs the glory of having solved the great problem, as to the existence of lands in the west; but in his estimation, the discovery owed its chief importance to the supposed identity of those lands with the opulent, but remote regions of Cathay, or China, and the Indies. Impressed with this idea,

the great navigator, even in his last voyage, took with him persons skilled in the Arabic language, for the purpose of being enabled to hold intercourse with the Khan of Tartary, as the Emperor of China was then styled, whose dominions he expected to reach by sailing west from Hispaniola. This voyage terminated twelve years after the first discovery, and resulted only in the exploration of the coast of Central America, from the bay of Honduras to the Spanish Main.

The same idea led to the discovery of the continent of North America, by the Cabots in 1497. The account of the matter given by Sebastian Cabot, who was the master spirit on that occasion, is that the news of the discoveries made by Columbus, caused a great sensation at the court of Henry VII., who then reigned in England, and it was thought a wonderful thing, "more divine than human, to sail by the west to the lands in the east, where spices grow." The fame of this achievement kindled a desire in his own mind to attempt something of a similar character, and "understanding," he says, "by reason of the sphere, that if I should sail by the northwest, I should by a shorter tract come into India, I thereupon caused the king to be advertised of my device," &c. He afterterwards adds, "I began therefore to sail towards the northwest, not thinking to find any other land than that of Cathay, and from thence to turn towards India; but after certain days, I found that the land ran towards the north, which to me was a great displeasure." *

* Hakluyt. Thus Lord Bacon characterizes Cabot's discovery as "a memorable accident," and the great navigator he describes "as one Sebastian Gabato, a Venetian, dwelling at Bristol, a man seen and expert in cosmography and navigation." *Hist. Henry VII.*

The accounts of this voyage, and of a second in in the same direction, made by Sebastian Cabot the following year, are extremely meagre; no details of them were published by the navigator himself, and after his death, his original maps and papers disappeared in a mysterious manner. But there is sufficient evidence to show that he first discovered land, after pursuing a northwest course from Bristol Channel, on the coast of Labrador, in latitude about 56°, on the 24th of June, the day of St. John the Baptist. In honor of the day, he gave the name of St. John to a small island, on the same coast, which has latterly disappeared from our maps. It is now supposed that Cabot, after making this discovery, continued his course to the north, as high as latitude 67°, and entered Hudson's bay; finding the sea still open, he said that he might and would have gone to Cathay, had it not been for the mutinous conduct of the master and mariners, who compelled him to retrace his steps. The ship in which he sailed was called the Matthew, of Bristol.

Obtaining a new patent from the king, he again sailed the following year with several vessels and about 300 persons, for the purpose, it is supposed, of forming a colony. It was during this voyage that he sailed along the whole coast of the United States, and laid the foundation of the English claim to the country.

Some particulars of these voyages are given by Peter Martyr, the celebrated Italian, a resident in Spain at that period, who derived his information from Cabot himself, when a guest at his house. According to this writer, Cabot called the lands he had discovered "Baccalaos, a name," says Martyr, "given by

the inhabitants to a large kind of fish, which appeared in such shoals, that they sometimes interrupted the progress of the ships." This word is now used in several European languages, to denote the codfish, either in its natural or dried state. It is found on some of the oldest maps of North America, as applied by Cabot to the countries he discovered, but is generally restricted to the island since called Newfoundland.*

The name of Labrador is Portuguese, having been given with some others by a Portuguese navigator, Gaspar de Cortereal, who visited the same coast in 1501, and left his own name applied to an extensive tract of country on the borders of Hudson's Bay, long known as *Terra Cortereälis.*

The name Norumbega was subsequently used to designate nearly the whole of the Continent north of Florida. This is supposed to be an Indian word, with a Latin termination,† and was generally used by the French, until it was superseded by another Indian name, which the French wrote Cadie, or Acadie, and sometimes with the Latin termination, as Cadia, or Acadia, but which the English changed into a less poetical word, by writing *Quoddy* instead of *Cadie.*‡

Norumbega, at a later period, was confined to the country lying north of Virginia; thus on a

* Thus Cortes, writing in 1524, proposes to explore "the northern coast of Florida as far as the *Bacallaos.*" *Despatches*, p. 417.

† Sometimes written *Arambec*, or *Arambeag*. It is remarked by Sullivan that the Indian word *eag* signifies *land*, and he thus accounts for its frequent occurrence in local names. Father Rale, in his Dictionary of the Abenaqui dialect, gives the words *ki* and *kik*, (kee and keek,) as meaning land; but Gallatin's Synopsis of Indian languages, (Long Island Vocabulary,) has "keagh, or eage;" the difference is, however, only in the orthography; the words are the same.

‡ The bay of Passamaquoddy, is on the French maps named *Pesmo-cadie.*

map contained in Wytfliet's supplement to Ptolemy, published as late as 1603, it has New France on the north, and Virginia on the south. A city of the same name is also laid down on this map, situated upon a large river, supposed to be the Penobscot. A map of North America, contained in the Novus Orbis of De Laet, published in 1633, distributes the country into the following divisions, commencing on the north: New France, Cadie, Norumbega, (comprising the territory between the St. Croix and Kennebec,) New England, New Netherland, Virginia, and Florida. Purchas in describing the coast of Maine, refers to former accounts of "a great town and fair river called Norumbega," and adds, that the French discoverers deny the existence of any such place, affirming that there are only cabins, covered with bark or skins, to be found in that region, and that the true name of the village and river is Pentegoet, a name long applied by the French to the Penobscot. This more accurate account of the matter was the result of visits to that river, by the French, at the period of their first settlements in Nova Scotia.

According to Hakluyt, and other writers, the Indians had a general designation for the territory comprised within the forty-third and forty-fifth degrees of north latitude, almost the precise limits of the sea coast of Maine, and extending forty leagues into the interior. This territory they called Mavooshen, "which," says Hakluyt, "was discovered by the English in the years 1602, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9," implying that voyages were made to it by the English in each of those years, a statement fully confirmed by evidence from other sources. The government of all

the Indians dwelling within these limits, and of others as far south as Massachusetts, was in the hands of a single Cacique, or Sachem, to whom the inferior Sagamores of the various tribes owed allegiance. His title as given by the English Navigators who first visited the country, was Bashaba, and Dr. Belknap remarks that " we have no account of any other Indian chief in these northern parts of America, whose authority was so extensive."* The place of his residence was probably on the banks of the Penobscot, and as it was also the seat of his government, the fabulous accounts of a large city in that quarter may have arisen from exaggerated descriptions of this humble capital of the Bashaba's dominions.

Notwithstanding the discoveries of the Cabots, with the exception of one or two expeditions from Bristol, fitted out by the enterprising merchants of that city, no subsequent efforts were made in England for a long period to follow up what had been so well begun. During the protracted reign of Henry VIII., those important discoveries seem to have been forgotten; nor was their memory revived in the succeeding reigns of Edward VI. and Queen Mary. The English merchants were satisfied with quietly despatching their frail barks to the fishing grounds, and drawing from the ocean-depths the more available sources of commercial thrift. Sebastian Cabot had gone into the service of Spain, and more than seventy years elapsed before the attention of the English goverment was again directed to the American coast. During all this long period, not an English

* 1 Am. Biog. 351.

colonist was landed upon any portion of the American continent, to mark the possession of the country on the part of those who afterwards claimed an exclusive right to every inch of the soil from Florida to Greenland. The maxim in those days was, Veni, Vidi, *Habui ;* or in the language of the poet,

> "The time once was here, to all be it known,
> When all a man sailed by, or saw, was his own."

At length, towards the close of the sixteenth century, Sir Humphry Gilbert, one of the most accomplished men in England, undertook an expedition to Newfoundland ; and his half brother, Sir Walter Raleigh, despatched another for the discovery of land to the north of Florida. But these efforts, however honorable to their authors, proved disastrous in the end. The wretched colonists planted by Sir Walter on the meagre coast of North Carolina were finally abandoned to their fate, and, cut off from all communication with the civilized world, are supposed to have perished of hunger, or by the hands of savages. The only result of any value or importance that followed the spirited exertions of that gifted genius, at whose private expense the attempt was made, was the opening of the hitherto unexplored wilds of Virginia to the knowledge of the world, which led to more successful efforts to colonize that portion of our country at a subsequent date.

The French were equally unsuccessful during the same century in all their enterprises to the new world ; not a single permanent settlement was effected by them on any part of the American coast.

Although repeated commissions were issued for the colonization of the country under the name of New France, the whole of North America, with the exception of Florida and Mexico, continued an unbroken wilderness, without a single European family in all its extent, until the commencement of the seventeenth century. This vast and dreary solitude was first broken on the borders of this State, by the French colony of De Monts, who passed the winter of 1603-4 on the island of St. Croix, situated in the river of the same name, on the line separating Maine from New Brunswick.

The spirit of colonization received a new impulse in England at the same period. The numerous fishing voyages from the western ports, especially Bristol, Exeter, and Plymouth, had divested the ocean of its terrors, and a visit to the American coast had become no unusual occurrence. In the summer of 1602, a small party of colonists embarked from Falmouth, and arrived on the coast of Massachusetts; having selected a location upon a small island near the southern shore of that State, to which they gave the name of Elizabeth island, they prepared to take up their abode there; but when the ship was about to leave on its return to England, their hearts failed them, and they hastily abandoned the enterprise. But the pleasing accounts these persons gave of the country after their return, and the shortness of the voyage, produced a favorable impression at home, and encouraged other enterprises of a similar character.

Richard Hakluyt, the author of the well known geographical work that bears his name, was at that

time a prebendary of St. Augustine's Church at Bristol; taking a lively interest in promoting voyages of discovery to different parts of the globe, he induced the corporation of Bristol and some of the merchants of that city, to unite in fitting out a small expedition to America the following year. It consisted of two vessels named the Speedwell and the Discoverer, with a ship's company of about fifty persons, amongst whom were several who had been in the expedition of the previous year. The command was given to Martin Pring, an experienced seaman. The vessels were victualled for eight months, and provided with various kinds of clothing, hardware and trinkets, to trade with the natives. They sailed on the 10th of April, 1603, a few days after the death of Queen Elizabeth, and reached the American coast on the 7th of June, between the 43d and 44th degrees of latitude, among those numerous islands with which Penobscot bay is studded. There they found good anchorage and fishing, and gave the name of Fox islands to the group now bearing that name.

Leaving that part of the coast, Captain Pring ranged to the southwest, and explored the inlets, rivers and bays, as far as the southern coast of Massachusetts. Here he named a bay where they landed, "by the name of the Worshipful Master, John Whitson, then Mayor of the city of Bristol, and one of the chief adventurers." A pleasant hill adjoining they called *Mount Aldworth*, "for Master Robert Waldworth's sake, a chief furtherer of the voyage, as well with his purse as his travel." Aldworth was a wealthy merchant of Bristol, who nearly thirty years after

was one of the grantees at Pemaquid, in conjunction with Giles Elbridge.

The object of this expedition having been accomplished by a careful survey of the country, and the vessels having received a full freight of sassafras and furs, Pring returned to England, where he arrived after a passage of five weeks. The whole voyage was completed in six months.

The next visit to the coast of Maine was in 1605, by Capt. George Weymouth, who having in view the discovery of Virginia, came in sight of the American coast on the 14th of May, in the latitude of 41° 20′; but finding himself in the midst of shoals and breakers, he made sail and at the distance of fifty leagues discovered several islands, to one of which he gave the name of St. George, which is still borne by a group of islands near the entrance to Penobscot river; about three leagues from this island, Weymouth came into a harbor which he called Pentecost harbor, and sailed up a noble river, now supposed to have been the Penobscot. But the most important circumstance connected with this voyage is, that on his return to England, Weymouth took with him several Indians, three of whom on his arrival at Plymouth he committed to the charge of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, Governor of the Fort at that place. "This accident," says Gorges, in his Description of New England, "must be acknowledged the means, under God, of putting on foot and giving life to all our plantations." He adds, that he kept these Indians for three years, and endeavored to elicit from them as much information as possible respecting their native country; and that the longer he conversed with

them, the better hope they gave him of those parts where they inhabited, as well fitted for the purposes of settlement, "especially when he found what goodly rivers, stately islands, and safe harbors those parts abounded with."

Thus encouraged, Sir Ferdinando despatched a ship the following year, (1606), under the command of Henry Challong, accompanied by two of the natives, with directions to keep a northerly course to Cape Breton, and then to run to the southward, following the coast until he reached Penobscot bay. Instead, however, of following these directions, the ship's course was shaped for the West Indies; this led to their capture by the Spaniards, who carried them into a Spanish port, where, says Sir Ferdinando, "their ship and goods were confiscated, themselves made prisoners, the voyage overthrown, and both the natives lost." This was one of those unfortunate mischances to which projectors of voyages were peculiarly exposed at that period, and which served to discourage enterprises of this character.

Soon after the departure of Challong, another ship under the command of Capt. Thomas Hanham and Capt. Pring, was despatched from Bristol by Lord Chief Justice Popham, with instructions to meet Challong at the Penobscot;* but not finding him at that place, they continued their course along shore, and made, says Gorges, "a perfect discovery of all

* The Plymouth Company, in a relation or manifesto published by them at a subsequent period, say of this voyage, that "it pleased the noble Lord Chief Justice, Sir John Popham, knight, to send out another ship, wherein Captain Thomas Hanham went commander, and Martine Prinne of Bristow master, with all necessary supplies, for the seconding of Captain Challons and his people; who ar-

those rivers and harbors indicated in their instructions, and brought with them the most exact discovery of that coast that ever came to my hands since."

In the meantime, new and extensive plans were formed for the colonization of the country. Individual efforts had been found insufficient for this purpose; it was necessary to awaken the attention of the government to its importance, and by securing the concurrence of the king and persons of rank, to increase the general interest in the undertaking. Sir John Popham, the Lord Chief Justice of England, was at this period in the zenith of his power and influence; venerable for his age, respected for his wise administration of the law, and strong in the confidence of the crown. He is accused by a recent writer* of having displayed too great alacrity in passing sentence upon Sir Walter Raleigh, when convicted of high treason; but the conduct of the Chief Justice on that occasion seems to have been marked by forbearance throughout. Sir Walter was tried by a special commission of eleven persons, consisting of several Peers of the realm, the Chief Justice and three other Justices of the King's Bench and Common Pleas; the jury was composed of knights and gentlemen of undoubted integrity. It might be difficult to convict

riving at the place appointed, and not finding that Captain there, after they had made some discovery, and found the coasts, havens and harbors answerable to our desires, they returned." "Upon whose relations," say the Company "afterwards, the lord chief justice and we all waxed so confident of the business, that the year following every man of any worth, formerly interested in it, was willing to join in the charge for the sending over a competent number of people to lay the ground of a hopeful plantation."

* Discourse on the Life and Character of Sir Walter Raleigh, delivered by J. Morrison Harris, before the Maryland Historical Society, May 19, 1846; an able and eloquent production.

a person on the same evidence at the present day, and the trial was scandalously managed on the part of the prosecuting attorney, Sir Edward Coke, even for that period; but Popham is not answerable for the imperfect state of the rules of evidence nearly two centuries and a half ago, nor for the brutal conduct of Coke towards the unfortunate prisoner. When called upon to pronounce the judgment of the court, the Chief Justice manifested feelings of regret and sorrow, while at the same time he commented with firmness upon the enormity of the offence of which one so highly gifted, and so capable of serving the state, had been found guilty. "I thought," said the venerable judge, no doubt with tears in his eyes, "I thought I should never have seen this day, to have stood in this place to have given sentence of death against you; because I thought it impossible that one of so great parts should have fallen so grievously." Again he says, "Now it resteth to pronounce the judgment, which I wish you had not been this day to have received of me. * * * I never saw the like trial, and hope I shall never see the like again."

The Chief Justice was a native of the west of England, and at the period in question resided at Wellington, in Somersetshire, where he passed much of his time, and entertained with great hospitality and splendor. An old writer says of him, that he was the greatest housekeeper in England, and would have at his seat of Littlecote four or five Lords at a time.*

In the same county, in the parish of Long Ashton, four or five miles from the city of Bristol, lived Sir

* Aubrey's Lives of Eminent Men, &c. Vol. 2d. p. 494.

Ferdinando Gorges, the founder of this State, and the Lord Proprietor of the original Province of Maine. Among all the friends of American colonization in England, none displayed so much zeal, energy and perseverance, as Gorges; when others were discouraged by unpromising results, he maintained his resolution, and insisted upon the practicability of his plans. Nor was his mind diverted from this great object of his life, until the extremities to which the king was reduced, demanded the entire services of his loyal subjects. Gorges was then an old man; full forty years had elapsed since his attention had been first directed to the shores of the New World, and he had expended many thousand pounds in furthering its discovery and settlement; but when his services were required by his sovereign, with all the instincts of English loyalty, the old knight buckled on his sword, and followed and shared the fortunes of his royal master.

Such were the two master spirits, who, in 1606, undertook the noble work of peopling these northern shores from the English coast, and who actually planted, at that early period, a numerous and well-provided colony on a spot a few miles only from the place where we are now assembled. It was sneeringly said by an old writer, in speaking of Chief Justice Popham, that "he not only punished malefactors, but provided for them, and first set up the discovery of *New* England to maintain and employ those that could not live honestly in the *old*."* But the object was generally acknowledged to be one of

* Lloyd's State Worthies, p. 46.

great national importance in many points of view, and Popham and Gorges succeeded in enlisting many of the first names in England in behalf of the enterprise. The plan was to establish two plantations, one in the north, and the other in the south, to be called the first and second colony; the first to be undertaken by a London company, and the second, "by certain knights, gentlemen, and merchants in the west of England." The design received the approbation of the king, by whom a charter was accordingly issued, under which the first permanent colony was planted in South Virginia, by the London company. The other associates of the second colony, who took the name of the Plymouth company, succeeded in despatching two or three ships with a hundred colonists to North Virginia, as this part of the country was then called; the expedition was commanded by Capt. George Popham, a brother of the Chief Justice, and Capt. Raleigh Gilbert, a nephew of the unfortunate Sir Humphry, who led a colony to Newfoundland in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Sir John, a brother of Raleigh Gilbert, was also a prominent member of the Plymouth Company. The expedition sailed from Plymouth on the last day of May, in the year 1607, consisting of the ships called the Gift, and the Mary and John, and arrived on the coast of this State, near the island of Monhegan, early in August; thence they proceeded to the mouth of the Kennebec, then called Sagadehock, where the the colonists disembarked, and selected a site for their future residence. There is some doubt as to the precise spot on which they erected their temporary dwellings and defences, and organized the govern-

ment of the colony; Stage Island, Parker's Island, and a neighboring peninsula, have respectively enjoyed the reputation of having received this band of English exiles, who first sought a home on our shores; but time has probably left no traces of the settlement. It is stated, however, by Purchas, on the authority of a letter from Capt. George Popham to Sir John Gilbert, cited by him, that "they chose the place of their plantation at the mouth of Sagadehoc, *in a westerly peninsula*, where they heard a sermon, read their patent and laws, and built a fort." * The peninsula here mentioned was probably that now known as Cape Small Point, on which it would seem most probable that the colony was located, and Fort St. George, as it was called, built for the protection of the colonists.

Measures were immediately taken to explore the neighboring country. For this purpose Raleigh Gilbert was despatched, attended by one of the Penobscot Indians that had been carried to England, two of whom accompanied the expedition. Gilbert was kindly treated by the natives with whom he met, and was invited to their cabins. They expressed a desire that the head of the colony should pay a visit to the Bashaba, the great chief, who dwelt on the banks of the Penobscot. Popham consented to go, and had proceeded some distance on his journey, when contrary winds and bad weather compelled him to return. The Bashaba afterwards sent his son to visit the English chief, and open a trade in furs. Such was the state observed by this Indian potentate, that he ex-

* This account was first published by Purchas in 1616.

pected, says Gorges, " all strangers should have their address to him, and not he to them."

The ships in which the colonists had arrived were not ready to return until the 15th of December, when a winter of great severity had set in. In England, as well as America, that winter was long remembered for its unusual degree of cold. The Thames at London was frozen over, and rendered passable upon the ice, a circumstance that is said rarely to occur. The Sagadehock colonists, unused to such rigorous weather, attributed it to the fault of the climate, and many of them, disheartened by the farther prospect of being exposed to numerous privations on a strange and inhospitable coast, resolved to return to England with the ships. Of the whole number only forty-five, less than one half, had the courage to remain.

In the meantime another ship with fresh supplies for the colony, was on its way to their relief. But she bore at the same time the melancholy intelligence of the death of Chief Justice Popham, which had occurred soon after the departure of the first ships from England, on the tenth of June, 1607. The Company in their manifesto speak of this event in the following manner: " In the meanwhile it pleased God to take from us this worthy member, the Lord Chief Justice, whose sudden death did so astonish the hearts of the most part of the adventurers, [the members of the Company in England,] as some grew cold, and some did wholly abandon the business. Yet Sir Francis Popham, his son, and certain of his private friends, and others of us, omitted not the next year (holding on our first resolution) to join in sending forth a new supply, which was accordingly performed. But the

ships arriving there, did not only bring uncomfortable news of the death of the lord chief justice, together with the death of Sir John Gilbert, the elder brother unto Captain Raleigh Gilbert, who at that time was president of that council [the colony] ; but found that the old Captain Popham was also dead ; who was the only man indeed that died there that winter, wherein they endured still greater extremities ; for that in the depth thereof, their lodgings and stores were burnt, and they thereby wondrously distressed."

It is not strange that amidst so many discouraging circumstances, to which was added the necessity of Raleigh Gilbert's return to England on account of his brother's death, the remaining colonists should turn their eyes wishfully towards their English homes, and even resolve to abandon the enterprise. Accordingly, when the ship that had brought them supplies was ready to sail, early in the spring of 1608, they all embarked and arrived safely in England.

In justification of this abandonment of the country, it was of course denounced by the returning emigrants as unfit to be inhabited by civilized beings ; as cold, barren and inhospitable. And yet the letters first received from the colony had represented it as " stored with grapes, white and red, good hops, onions, garlick, oaks, walnuts, and the soil good. They found oysters nine inches in length, and heard of others twice as great."* As to the climate, although the winter was one of almost unprecedented severity everywhere, it had produced no mortality among their number, unless the death of old Capt. Popham may

* Purchas.

be set down to that cause, who was the only one that died amidst the hardships suffered by the colonists. How superior was the spirit exhibited twelve years after by the Pilgrim emigrants at Plymouth, nearly half of whose number perished within four months after their landing, yet animated by a settled religious purpose, no one of the survivors entertained a thought of relinquishing their design. Had a tithe of their energy and resolute spirit animated the Kennebec colonists, whose resources were so much superior, a more grateful task might have awaited the pen that should relate the story of this enterprise.*

Nor did the colonists suffer to any considerable extent from collisions with the natives; on the other hand, they seem to have been treated by them with much kindness and hospitality, owing probably to favorable representations made by those of their number who had resided in the family of Gorges at Ply-

* The Massachusetts Colony, under the direction of the prudent Winthrop, scarcely suffered a less mortality than the Pilgrims, although they arrived early in summer. "Many died weekly, yea, almost daily," says one of them; and another writes that "almost in every family lamentation, mourning, and woe were heard, and no fresh food to cherish them." This was chiefly during the few weeks that the colonists remained at Charlestown, and was occasioned in a considerable degree by the want of good water. After their removal in the same summer (1630) to the peninsula on which the foundations of Boston were laid by them, the sickness abated in consequence of a better supply of the pure element found there. About two hundred died during the season. In the midst of these troubles, Gov. Winthrop wrote to his wife, whom he had left in England for the present, in the following words: "I thank God, I like so well to be here that I do not repent my coming; and if I were to come again, I would not have altered my course, though I had foreseen all these afflictions. * * I praise God, we have many occasions of comfort here, and do hope that our days of affliction will soon have an end, and that the Lord will do us more good in the end than we could have expected, that will abundantly recompense for all the trouble we have endured." Winthrop's Journal, Savage's ed. vol. 1. p. 377. Hist. Charlestown, by R. Frothingham, Jr. pp. 42, 43.

mouth, and now acted as guides and interpreters to the English in their intercourse with the red men. Purchas, who derived his information from Raleigh Gilbert, and others of the Colony, thus speaks of the Indians: "The people seemed affected with our men's devotions, and would say, 'king James is a good king, his God a good God, and *Tanto* nought;' so they call an evil spirit which haunts them every moon, and makes them worship him for fear. He commanded them not to dwell near or come among the English, threatening to kill some, and inflict sickness on others, beginning with two of the sagamore's children; saying he had power and would do the like to the English the next moon, to wit, in December." Then follows a story calculated to alarm the poor emigrants, and which may have had some effect in unsettling their resolution: "The people also told our men of cannibals near Sagadehock *with teeth three inches long*, but they saw them not." One person, styled Master Patterson, was killed in an encounter with the Tarrentines, an unfriendly tribe, dwelling beyond the Penobscot; with this exception, nothing seems to have arisen to disturb the relations of the colonists with their uncivilized neighbors.

The only member of the Plymouth Company who seems to have remained undiscouraged and unmoved by the breaking up of this colony and the unfavorable reports of the country, was Sir Ferdinando Gorges. While he regretted, as he says, the loss of so noble a friend as the Chief Justice, and his nation so worthy a subject, he refused to be influenced by the idle stories of the cold being so extreme as to render the country unsuitable for settlement and cultivation.

"As for the coldness of the clime," said he, "I had had too much experience in the world to be frighted with such a blast, as knowing many great kingdoms and large territories more northerly seated, and by many degrees colder than the clime from whence they came, yet plentifully inhabited, and divers of them stored with no better commodities from trade and commerce than those parts afforded, if like industry, art and labor be used." But the good sense of the worthy knight was not capable of reanimating the drooping energies of the Plymouth Company. "There was no more speech of settling any other plantation in those parts for a long time after," say the Company in their Relation published at a subsequent period; "only," they add, "Sir Francis Popham having the ships and provision which remained of the company, and supplying what was necessary for his purpose, sent divers times to the coasts for trade and fishing; of whose loss or gains himself is best able to give account."

Sir Ferdinando pursued a similar course of private adventure, at the same time keeping in view his great object, the settlement of the country; "finding," he says, "I could no longer be seconded by others, I became an owner of a ship myself, fit for that employment, and under color of fishing and trade, I got a master and company for her, to which I sent Vines and others my own servants with their provision for trade and discovery. By these and the help of those natives formerly sent over, I came to be truly informed of so much as gave me assurance that in time I should want no undertakers, though as yet I was

forced to hire men to stay there the winter quarter at extreme rates."

This state of things continued until the year 1614, when Captain John Smith, who had been governor of the colony in South Virginia, but had retired in disgust from its service, turned his attention to the north. "I desired to see this country," he said, "and spend some time in trying what I could find for all those ill rumors and disasters." Having induced four London merchants to join him in the enterprise, he set sail on the third of March from the Downs, with two ships and forty-five men and boys, taking with him also an Indian named Tantum, and after a voyage of eight weeks arrived at the island of Monhegan. Here he built seven boats, in which he sent all but eight of his men on a fishing voyage, while with the remainder he embarked in a small boat, and with his accustomed energy ranged the coast from Penobscot to Cape Cod, exploring all its inlets, rivers and bays, and trafficking with the Indians. The commercial results of this voyage must have fully satisfied the most sanguine expectations of his partners in the enterprise; for in his small boat, in exchange for trifling articles of little value, he obtained nearly 11,000 beaver skins, 100 martens, and as many otters, and the most of them, he says, within the distance of twenty leagues. His fishing was not equally successful, as he had lost the best of the season in the vain pursuit of whales; but his men took and dried about 1,200 quintals of fish, which sold in Spain for five dollars per quintal.

On his return to England, after an absence of about six months, Captain Smith made a highly fa-

vorable report of the country, to which he gave the name of NEW ENGLAND. Having prepared a written description of his discoveries, together with a map of the coast, he presented them to Prince Charles, afterwards Charles I., "humbly entreating his Highness," he says, "to change their barbarous names for such English as posterity might say "Prince Charles was their godfather." The Prince complied with this request, confirming the name of New England, and substituting English names for those which had been derived from the Indians, or that had been given by former navigators. This experiment, however, proved in the main unsuccessful, as it deserved to be; the names of Plymouth, Charles River, and Cape Ann, being the only ones recommended by Charles that have been sanctioned by general use; while the names of Massachusetts, Piscataqua, Agamenticus, Saco, Casco, Androscoggin, Kennebeck, Pemaquid, Penobscot, Monhegan, Matinicus, and others, of Indian origin, are still retained.

The success of this voyage in regard to its pecuniary returns, and the favorable report of the country, infused new life into the spirit of colonial enterprise. Gorges took the lead as usual, and in conjunction with Dr. Sutcliffe, Dean of Exeter, and other western gentlemen, concerted the plan of a colony to be conducted by Capt. Smith to New England the following year. Smith also endeavored to interest the London merchants in this project, because, he remarks, "the Londoners have most money;" but he preferred sailing from a western port, as he says it is nearly as much trouble, but much more danger, to sail from London to Plymouth, than from Plymouth to New-

foundland.* His plan was that the expedition should consist of eight ships, four from London and the same number from the west of England; but in this he proved unsuccessful, such was the jealousy of interest among them. He finally sailed from Plymouth in March, 1615, with only two vessels, one of 200 tons, the other of 50; besides his ships' company, he was attended by fifteen men and two boys, who had agreed to remain in New England, and begin a plantation. Smith gives the names of these persons, and adds, "I confess I would have wished them as many thousands, had all other provisions been in like proportion, nor would I have had so few, could I have had means for more; yet if God had pleased we had safely arrived, I doubted not but to have performed more than I promised, and that many thousands had been there ere now."

With the knowledge we possess of the resolute and persevering character of this dauntless and excellent man, as previously exhibited in the Virginia Colony, and on other occasions, we have little doubt as to the success of his efforts to colonize New England, had he been permitted to reach its shores with his little band of emigrants; but a series of cruel and almost unparalled disasters awaited him on the ocean. The vessels had proceeded 120 leagues to sea, when they were overtaken by a gale that carried away all the masts of the larger ship, which was compelled to return to Plymouth under jurymasts, the other vessel at the same time parting company. Not discouraged

* To one familiar with the intricate and dangerous navigation of the river Thames and the English Channel, this remark would scarcely seem an exaggeration.

by this accident, Smith again set sail on the 24th of June in another ship of only sixty tons; but disasters still awaited him. Falling in with an English piratical craft of vastly superior force, Smith refused to yield to the entreaties of his officers who wished him to surrender without striking a blow; but assuming a bold attitude he succeeded in making terms with the enemy, and was permitted to continue his voyage.

Soon after he again fell in with two French pirates, also of greatly superior force; his officers refusing to fight, Smith threatened to blow up his ship rather than yield. He then opened his four guns upon the enemy, and under the fire effected his escape. But his next encounter proved fatal to his voyage and all his plans. Four French men of war made the odds too great for his little bark, and being summoned on board the Admiral's ship to show his papers, he obeyed; but although peace existed between England and France at that time, the French commander detained him, and took possession of his ship, which was then plundered by the French sailors, and his men dispersed about their squadron, now increased to eight or nine sail. At length these freebooters consented to restore his ship and men; but after regaining possession, a dispute arose as to continuing the voyage, a portion of the officers and men being disposed to put back to Plymouth, but Smith and the rest were resolved to proceed. In the meantime, he was again summoned on board the French admiral's ship, and had no sooner reached the quarter deck, than a sail hove in sight to which the Frenchman gave chase. Thus was he unfortunately separated from his command, of which the disaffected part of his

officers and men took advantage during the night, and directed the ship's course to Plymouth, where they arrived in safety.

The French fleet continued to cruise for two months, for the purpose of intercepting vessels from the West Indies, of which they made several captures. When they encountered Spanish vessels, Smith was compelled to take part in the actions, and give them the benefit of his military skill and experience; but when the prey was English, he was kept carefully out of the way, and not allowed to come in contact with his countrymen. On their arrival upon the French coast near Rochelle, instead of fulfilling their promise to make him double amends for his losses, to the amount of 10,000 crowns of prize money, they kept him a prisoner on board the ship, and threatened him with further mischief unless he gave them a full discharge before the Admiralty. A storm coming on, Smith watched his opportunity and escaped in a boat during the darkness of the night; but the current took the boat out to sea instead of enabling him to reach the shore. The wind and tide, however, changing during the night, the boat at length drifted upon a small island, where he was found in the morning by some fowlers, nearly drowned, and half dead with cold and hunger.

Pawning his boat for means to reach Rochelle, he was informed on his arrival at that place, that on the night of his escape the man of war with her richest prize had foundered, and the captain and half of the ship's company were lost. At Rochelle, Smith sought justice in a court of admiralty, libelling the goods saved from the wreck of the man of war; and having

collected from the survivors the fullest evidence of the losses to which he had been subjected, he left his case in charge of Sir Thomas Edmonds, the British minister at Bordeaux, and returned to England.

Such was the eventful and disastrous issue of the second attempt to colonize New England. Yet it was not without its good results. While detained on board the French ship, Smith found time to write out his previous adventures in New England, with a description of the country which was the most complete and satisfactory that had been yet submitted to the public. This work was published in June, 1616, and contained his original map of New England, with the English names suggested by Prince Charles. He printed an edition of two or three thousand, he says, and spent the summer of 1616, in visiting all the larger towns in the west of England, and distributing copies of this book and map. He also caused one thousand copies to be bound up with a great variety of maps, both of Virginia and New England, which he presented to thirty of the principal companies in London, at their Halls. Nearly a year was spent by him in this way, with the hope of inducing another effort to plant the wilderness of New England; but all his labors proved ineffectual, and he was compelled to abandon the project with the loss of the time and money he had expended upon it. There is no doubt, however, that the knowledge Smith diffused, did in the end advance the settlement of the country; and as an acknowledgment of the value of his services, the Plymouth Company bestowed on him the title of Admiral of New England.

The unremitted exertions of Sir Ferdinando Gor-

ges were now directed to the formation of a new company distinct from that of Virginia, whose attention should be exclusively devoted to the colonization of New England. A liberal charter was granted to this company by the sole authority of the king, constituting them a corporation with perpetual succession, by the name of "The Council established at Plymouth, in the county of Devon, for the planting, ruling, and governing of New England in America." It consisted of forty noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, among whom were the Duke of Lenox, the Marquis of Buckingham, the Earls of Arundel and Warwick, and others scarcely less distinguished in the history of that period. The charter bears date November 3d, 1620; and as it conveyed to the Council the territory extending from the fortieth to the forty-eighth degree of north latitude, one half of which was comprised in the previous patent to the Virginia company, objections were made to it at the outset from that quarter. Not succeeding with the king and the Privy Council, the complainants carried the matter before the House of Commons, and Gorges appeared three several times at the bar of the house to answer objections; on the last occasion he was attended by eminent legal counsel. The result was unfavorable, and the house in presenting to the king the public grievances of the kingdom, included amongst them the patent of New England. The effect of this movement was at first prejudicial to the company, for it was the means of discouraging those who proposed to establish plantations in this quarter, as well as some of the Council. But James was not inclined to have the propriety of his own acts disputed or denied on the floor of Parliament; so that instead of car-

rying out the design of destroying the Patent, he dismissed the Parliament, and committed to the Tower and other prisons the members who had been most forward in condemning the charter, and most free in questioning the prerogative of the Crown.

This charter to the Council of Plymouth was the next great step towards the colonization of New England, as it was the foundation of all the grants that were made of the country upon which titles to land now rest. One of the first of these was in favor of the Pilgrims then settled at Plymouth. They had previously obtained a patent from the old Plymouth Company, which had been taken to Holland for their inspection before their departure; but this not answering their purpose, they applied to the Council of Plymouth for another after their removal to New England. Gorges gives the following account of the matter :—"After they had well considered the state of their affairs, and found that the authority they had from the Company of Virginia could not warrant their abode in that place, which they found so prosperous and pleasing to them, they hastened away their ship with order to their solicitor to deal with me, to be the means that they might have a grant from the Council of New England's Affairs to settle in the place; which was accordingly performed to their particular satisfaction and the good content of them all; which place was after called New Plymouth, where they have continued ever since very peaceable, and in all plenty of all necessaries that nature needeth, if that could satisfy our vain affections." Such was the liberal spirit of this worthy man, that although differing in his religious notions

toto cœlo from the pilgrim fathers, he yet looked with evident satisfaction upon the comfortable quarters they had made for themselves within the limits of the Council's Patent, although without having secured a proper title to their lands; and it seems he did not hesitate to aid them in supplying this deficiency.*

* The Pilgrims after their settlement at Plymouth found themselves without a legal title to the soil; hence their application to the Council for a patent, which was granted in the name of John Pierce, a London merchant, who held it in trust for them. It was dated June 1st, 1621. But not satisfied with this, they procured another, in the name of William Bradford, through the influence of Sir Ferdinando Gorges and the Earl of Warwick, dated January 13th, 1630, on which their title finally rested. The Pierce patent simply granted to him and his associates, (without naming them,) one hundred acres of land for each person, if they should continue three years in the country; the land to be taken in any place not already inhabited by English people or selected by the Council for other purposes. But the Bradford patent contained a general grant of the territory of the Colony, with specific boundaries, constituting a separate jurisdiction, that existed until the union with Massachusetts in 1691. This patent likewise conveyed to Bradford and his associates an extensive territory lying on both sides of the Kennebec, and an exclusive right to the trade on that river; a very liberal concession. The colony at that time contained, as the patent recites, about three hundred people.

It is a curious fact that the Old Colony of Plymouth came near being annexed to New York, instead of Massachusetts, in 1691. A strenuous opposition was made by the agent of Plymouth, in London, to the connexion with Massachusetts, which seems to have arisen from a feeling of jealousy towards the sister colony. "All the frame of heaven," he says, "moves upon one axis, and the whole of New England's interest seems designed to be loaden on one bottom, and her particular motions to be concentric to the Massachusetts tropic; you know who are wont to trot after the *bay* horse," &c. To such length was this opposition carried, that when the commission of Governor Sloughter was made out for the government of New York, Plymouth was actually included in it; but it was afterwards changed to meet the views of the Massachusetts agent. Some disturbances that arose in two or three towns of the Old Colony about the same time, were attributed by the authorities at Plymouth to the influence of Sloughter, who, however, had enough on his hands, during the three or four months that intervened between his arrival at New York, and his death, without intermeddling with the affairs of a distant Colony. See Davis, in Appendix to Morton's Memorial. pp. 361-3. Ibid. 473-5. 1 Hazard, State Papers, 298. Prince, 198. note.

The attention of the Council was soon directed to the importance of establishing a general government over their extensive territory, as complaints were made by those who visited the country of disorders committed on the coast, which there was no power competent to restrain or punish. Having determined on the appointment of a Governor to superintend their affairs in the country, Robert Gorges, Esq., a son of Sir Ferdinando, was selected for this office, with whom was joined a board of counsellors, one of whom was to be the Governor for the time being of the Plymouth colony. An extensive grant of territory was made at the same time to Robert Gorges, containing three hundred square miles, on Massachusetts Bay, which he proceeded at once to occupy. He arrived in the Bay about the beginning of the autumn of 1623, "with sundry passengers and families," and gave immediate notice of his arrival to the government of Plymouth. "He had a commission from the Council of New England," says Bradford, who was then Governor of Plymouth, and entitled by virtue of that office to be one of his Council, "to be general Governor of the country; and they appoint for his council and assistants, Capt. West, [who had been previously commissioned as Admiral of New England,] Christopher Levett, Esq., and the Governor of Plymouth for the time being; giving him authority to choose others as he should find fit; with full power to him and his assistants, or any three of them, (whereof himself was always to be one,) to do and execute what to them should seem good in all cases, capital, criminal, and civil, with divers other instructions, of which and his commission it pleased him to

offer the Governor of Plymouth to take a copy. He gave us notice of his arrival by letter, and before we could visit him sails for the eastward with the ship he came in; but a storm rising, they bore into our harbor, are kindly entertained, and stay fourteen days." He adds, "Shortly after, Governor Gorges goes to the Massachusetts by land, being thankful for his kind entertainment. His ship staying here, fits for Virginia, having some passengers to deliver there."

The place selected by the Governor General for the residence of the families that had accompanied him, is situated on a branch of what is now called Boston Bay, then known as Massachusetts Bay, in the present town of Weymouth, about twelve miles south of the city of Boston. The same place had been settled the year previous by a band of English emigrants under the auspices of a London merchant, named Weston, who had provided them with all the necessary supplies for establishing a plantation. The same gentleman had been chiefly instrumental in supplying the Plymouth colonists with the means of transportation to New England, but had undertaken this neighboring settlement with a view to his private advantage. He employed several vessels in trade and fishing on the coast, and the men who formed the settlement, had been chosen as suitable for the furtherance of his designs, which were purely of a mercantile character.* But owing to various causes, this settlement was broken up in less than a year from the time it had been commenced, and when Gorges arrived at the same place, with a considera-

* Morton, New English Canaan, p. 106.

ble reinforcement of men and supplies, Weston's people seem to have wholly disappeared.

While Gorges was enjoying the hospitality of the Pilgrims, Mr. Weston arrived there to look after his affairs, when the Governor General called him to account for the disorderly conduct of his men, who had scandalized the country by their riotous behavior; but as that gentleman had been a great sufferer from the abuses that had been committed in his absence, by the waste of his property and the frustration of his plans, the matter was soon compromised, and Gorges embarked in one of his ships for the eastward. He entered the mouth of the Piscataqua, and visited the plantation of Mr. David Thompson, where he met Christopher Levett, Esq., one of his Counsellors, who had just arrived from England. The Governor there administered to Levett the oath of office, in the presence of three more of the Council, and thus duly organized his government.

The Council of Plymouth, in providing for the proper administration of affairs in New England, did not forget the religious interests of the country. They sent over with the governor a clergyman of the church of England, the Rev. William Morell, for the purpose of superintending the establishment of churches, and probably to counteract the efforts of the Puritans for the spread of their peculiar views. He remained about two years, chiefly at Plymouth, where his discreet deportment seems to have conciliated the good will of the colonists; indeed, such was the condition of the country, that he did not undertake to execute his ministerial functions, nor was it known in the colony that he had an ecclesiastical commission to

oversee their religious concerns, until he was about going away, when he spoke of it to some of the people. During his abode in the country, Mr. Morrell composed a Latin poem, descriptive of the natural features of New England, which he dedicated to Charles I. and published, together with an English translation, after his return.* The following are the introductory lines ;

NOVA ANGLIA.

Hactenus ignotam populis ego carmine primus,
Te nova de veteri cui contigit Anglia nomen,
Aggredior trepidus pingui celebrare Minerva.
Fer mihi numen opem, cupienti singula plectro
Pandere veridico, quæ nuper vidimus ipsi ;
Ut breviter vereque sonent modulamina nostra,
Temperiem cœli, vim terræ, munera ponti,
Et varios gentis mores, velamina, cultus.

The author's translation :

NEW ENGLAND.

" Fear not, poor Muse, cause first to sing her fame
That's yet scarce known unless by map or name ;
A grandchild to earth's paradise is born,
Well limbed, well nerv'd, fair, rich, sweet, yet forlorn.
Thou blest director ! so direct my verse,
That it may win her people, friends, commerce ;

* " Morrell, the clergyman who accompanied Gorges, notwithstanding his disappointment, conceived a very favorable opinion of New England, which he expressed in an elegant Latin poem, descriptive of the country." Grahame, Hist. U. S. I. 202. It may be found reprinted in vol. I. Mass. Hist. Coll. Grahame alludes to the well known lines in Hudibras, founded on an occurrence in Weston's colony, where an innocent but bed-rid weaver was said to have been hung instead of a guilty but useful cobbler, whom they could not so well spare. In clearing the pilgrims of this charge, Grahame, with equal disregard of truth, endeavors to fasten it upon the administration of Gorges. Ibid.

Whilst her sweet air, rich soil, blest seas, my pen
Shall blaze, and tell the natures of her men."

The poem concludes with an appeal to the English people in behalf of the country:

" If these poor lines may win this country love,
Or kind compassion in the English move—
Persuade our mighty and renowned state
This pur-blind people to commiserate;
Or painful men to this good land invite,
Whose holy works these natives may inlight:
If Heaven grant these, to see here built I trust,
An English kingdom from this Indian dust!"

Gorges remained in the country until the spring of 1624, when he returned to England, discouraged by not receiving promised succor from home for his colony, and perhaps, as Bradford says, "not finding the state of things to answer his quality." A portion of his people remained, and were kindly assisted with supplies from Plymouth; but most of them went either to Virginia or England. He was the oldest son of Sir Ferdinando, and had married a daughter of the Earl of Lincoln. He died not long after his return, and was succeeded in his patent of lands on Massachusetts Bay by his brother John, who conveyed the same to General Sir William Brereton, Bart., in 1629; the latter is said to have sent over a number of families and servants, who possessed and improved several large tracts of land comprised in this patent.*

* This fact is derived from a MS. document recently discovered by Rev. Mr. Felt, of Boston, in his indefatigable researches and labors to arrange the ancient archives of Massachusetts.

One of the counsellors of Governor Gorges, Christopher Levett, Esq., soon after his return to England, published an account of his voyage, from which it appears that he first arrived at the Isles of Shoals, and passed a month at the plantation of Mr. Thomson, at Piscataqua.* Being there joined by his men, who had come over in several ships, he left that place in the autumn of 1623, with two boats, to explore the eastern coast for the purpose of selecting a suitable place to form a settlement. He landed in the course of his expedition at various points along the coast until he reached what he calls Capemanwagen, now probably Cape Newagen, a few miles east of the mouth of the Kennebec, where he says nine ships were engaged in fishing during that year. Here he remained four nights, "in which time," he says, "there came many savages with their wives and children, and some of good account among them;" of the latter description he mentions a sagamore named Somerset, "one that hath been found very faithful to the English, and hath saved the lives of many of our nation, some from starving, others from killing [being killed.]"

Levett states, that when he was about to depart from this place, the Indians enquired where he intended to establish his plantation; he answered, that he intended to examine the coast farther to the east before making a decision. Thereupon they assured him

* Thomson afterwards (about 1626) removed to an island in Boston harbor, still known by his name. See Christian Examiner, Sept. 1846. p. 282. Art. *Young's Mass. Chronicles.* The settlement at Piscataqua, one of the first in New Hampshire, was not, however, abandoned, as stated by Young, (Chron. Mass. 21.) for it was assessed for certain expenses equally with Plymouth in 1628. 3 Mass. Hist. Coll. 63.

there was no suitable place left for him in that quarter, as Pemaquid and Monhegan, as well as Capemanwagen, had been already granted to others. Thus discouraged from pursuing his voyage, Levett accepted an invitation from the sagamore of Casco to accompany him and his wife on their return to Casco Bay; where they assured him he should be made welcome to as much land as he desired. Accordingly the next day he sailed, he says, "with the king, queen, and prince, bow and arrows, dog and kettle in my boat, his noble attendants rowing by us in their canoes." Selecting a place for his plantation, he gave it the name of York; it had been the property of "the queen's father, who left it to her at his death, having no more children." "And thus," he adds, "after many dangers, much labor, and great charge, I have obtained a place of habitation in New England, where I have built a house, and fortified it in a reasonable good fashion, strong enough against such enemies as are these savage people."

The rarity of Levett's book is probably the reason that this voyage has not been heretofore noticed by any of our writers.* What afterwards became of him, or his settlement, may be an interesting subject of enquiry. His narrative is valuable as showing the condition of the coast of Maine at the date of his voyage; he mentions no English settlement after

* It is entitled, "A Voyage into New England, begun in 1623, and ended in 1624. Performed by Christopher Levett, His Majesty's Woodward of Somersetshire, and one of the Council of New England. Printed at London, &c. 1628." A transcript was procured by Mr. Sparks from a copy in England, and recently printed in Mass. Hist. Coll. vol. 28. A copy of the original edition belongs to the New York Hist. Society, from which it is proposed to be reprinted in the new volume of the Maine Historical Collections.

leaving Piscatqua, although the Indians informed him that Pemaquid, Cape Newagen, and Monhegan, had been granted to others. Sir Ferdinando Gorges had a plantation at that period on the island of Monhegan,* which had long been a place of resort for vessels engaged in fishing on the coast. The other places named were also used by fishermen for curing their fish on 'stages' erected by them, and gradually increased into considerable settlements. There is extant a deed from Somerset, the sagamore mentioned by Levett as particularly friendly to the English, and another, to one John Brown of New Harbor, on Pemaquid Point, covering a large tract of land in that quarter, dated July 15th, 1625. The next year, 1626, two eminent merchants of the city of Bristol, who had been long concerned in voyages to this coast, Robert Aldworth and Giles Elbridge, sent over Mr. Abraham Short to take possession of the island of Monhegan, which they purchased at this time; Short remained in the country, as the agent of those gentlemen, who soon after obtained a patent of lands at Pemaquid from the Council of Plymouth, and established a flourishing colony at that place, where may still be found descendants of these early colonists, in possession of the allotments of lands made to their ancestors under this patent.

Robert Aldworth, one of these patentees, is still remembered at Bristol, for his public spirit and munificent charities; for many years he was one of the aldermen of the city, and took a prominent part in its affairs. A splendid monument in St. Peter's

* Prince. 127.

Church, near the altar, perpetuates his memory. "He is entitled," says a writer of that city, "to distinguished notice as a merchant of the first rank of the age in which he lived."* He was born in 1561, and died in 1634. Having no issue, he bequeathed all his estate to Giles Elbridge, Esq., his co-patentee at Pemaquid, and also a merchant of Bristol, who had married his niece. The town of Bristol, comprising a portion of old Pemaquid, commemorates by its name the origin of its early settlement and of many of its inhabitants.

The charter of the Council of Plymouth, as has been already remarked, laid the foundation of all grants of land in New England; but the geographical features of the country were but little understood by the members of the Council, and great confusion consequently ensued in their conveyances. Of all the forty noblemen, knights and esquires named in that instrument, only one, Raleigh Gilbert, had been on this side of the water. The rivers had not been explored far beyond their mouths, and nothing was known of the interior of the country except from the uncertain and indistinct accounts of the Indians. It is not strange, therefore, that much perplexity and embarrassment arose upon the actual settlement of so large a territory, under grants made in England by those who had never seen any portion of it. Dr. Belknap well remarks, that "either from the jarring interests of the members, or their indistinct knowledge of the country, or their inattention to business, or some other cause which does not fully appear, their

* This monument was repaired and embellished as recently as 1807, at the expense of a lady. *Corry.* Hist. Bristol, vol. 2. p. 258.

affairs were transacted in a confused manner from the beginning ; and the grants which they made were so inaccurately described, and interfered so much with each other, as to occasion difficulties and controversies, some of which are not yet ended."

No part of New England has suffered more from this cause than Maine, even at last to a complete denial of the title of its proprietary by a neighboring colony. The first grant by the Council that included any portion of this State, seems to have been the patent of Laconia, to Sir Ferdinando Gorges and John Mason, in 1622. This comprised "all the lands situated between the rivers Merrimack and Sagadehock, extending back to the great lakes and the river of Canada ;" and was intended to embrace a region in the vicinity of the lakes, of which highly colored and romantic descriptions had been given. Both of the patentees acted under this patent, although many subsequent grants of the Council were made within the same limits. The first settlements in New Hampshire, and perhaps in this State, on the banks of the Piscataqua, were made under it. After seven years joint title, Mason, November 7th, 1629, took out a separate patent of that portion lying south and west of the Piscataqua, to which he gave the name of New Hampshire, being at that time Governor of Portsmouth in Hampshire, England. * The remaining portion became the exclusive property of Gorges, who, however, had no separate title until 1635, when he gave the territory between the Piscataqua and Kennebec the name of NEW SOMERSETSHIRE, in compli-

* 2 Coll. N. H. Hist. Soc., 273.

ment to his native county; and soon after sent over his kinsman, Capt. William Gorges as Governor, with commissions to several gentlemen residing there, as Counsellors of the new Province. This was the first general jurisdiction (1636) established in this State. A portion of the records of New Somersetshire have been preserved, from which it appears that a court was held by the Governor and Commissioners at Saco, in March, 1636, and at subsequent dates.

Gorges now flattered himself that his long cherished hopes were about to be realized by the speedy settlement of the country, in which he had taken so deep an interest. He had as yet experienced little else than trouble and disappointment, the only return for years of labor and many thousand pounds of expense. Before the date of his separate grant from the Council, settlements had been made at many different points within his limits, and there was an encouraging prospect for the future. The flourishing condition of the colonies of New Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay, had the effect of directing a greater share of public attention towards New England, and those who did not harmonize with the religious views of the Puritans, sought new abodes under the more tolerant sway of the lord proprietor.

When the Council of Plymouth resigned their charter, in 1635, the resignation was accompanied by a petition to the king for the establishment of a general government in New England, and Sir Ferdinando, then about three score years of age, was nominated to be the General Governor. The design received the approbation of Charles and his privy council, by whom an order was issued, establishing the new

government, and appointing Gorges to the office of Governor over New England; but the troubles at home, both in England and Scotland, prevented the completion of the scheme, which had excited the fears of the Puritan colonists to a most intense degree. The death of Mason, who had been a most active promoter of this plan of a general government, occurred at this period, and was another cause of its abandonment. Governor Winthrop has the following notice of this event in his journal:—"1636. The last winter Captain Mason died. He was the chief mover in all attempts against us; and was to have sent the General Governor; and for this end was providing ships. But the Lord, *in mercy*, taking him away, all the business fell asleep."

In the Journal of Richard Mather, grand-father of Cotton Mather, under the date of May 27th, 1635, there is an interesting notice of a visit paid by Sir Ferdinando Gorges to a ship then lying at Bristol, in which a number of Puritans were about embarking for New England.* At that time there was a great probability of Sir Ferdinando's going over as General Governor of the New England Colonies, to which he evidently alludes in his conversation with one of the passengers. The passage is as follows:—"When we came there, we found divers passengers, and among them some lovely and godly Christians, that were glad to see us there. And soon after we came on board, there came three or four boats with more passengers, and one wherein came Sir Ferdinando Gorges, who came to see the ship and the people.

* This journal has been recently published for the first time, by Dr. Young, in his valuable collection of documents relating to Massachusetts.

When he was come, he inquired whether there were any people there that went to Massachusetts Bay. Whereupon Mr. Maud and Barnabas Fower were sent for to come before him. Who being come, he asked Mr. Maud of his country, occupation, or calling of life, &c., and professed his good will to the people there in the Bay, and promised that if ever he came there, he would be a true friend unto them."

The truth is, an unreasonable jealousy existed towards Sir Ferdinando, on the part of the leading colonists in Massachusetts, that was not justified by the character of that distinguished patron of New England, or by his conduct in reference to the Puritan emigrants. The active part he had taken from the beginning, when the country first came into notice, through a period of more than thirty years, in all measures for encouraging its settlement, and promoting its prosperity, is sufficient evidence of the sincere interest he took in the welfare of New England. To him the Puritans, both of Plymouth and Massachusetts, were in the main indebted for their charters, and the former deserve the credit of having made a grateful acknowledgment of his kindness, and of the services he had rendered the country.* But in the sister colony it was otherwise ; his name was seldom mentioned there without symptoms of fear or distrust. The real cause of this unfriendly feeling towards Sir Ferdinando Gorges may, perhaps, be traced to his

* Thus in a letter to him from Governor Bradford and others, in 1628, they say,—" Honorable Sir: As you have ever been, not only a favorer, but also a most special beginner and furtherer of the good of this country, to your great cost and no less honor, we whose names are underwritten, being some of every plantation in the land, deputed for the rest, do humbly crave your Worship's help and best assistance," &c. 3 Mass. Hist. Coll. 63.

prominent position as a member of the Council of Plymouth; the just claims of his family to lands on Massachusetts Bay, by a grant prior to that of the colony; and the disgust excited in England among the friends of the established Church, as well as persons of moderation generally, by the intolerance and fanaticism displayed in some of the first political acts of the Massachusetts Company after their removal to New England.* Sharing the common feeling in England, Gorges was in a situation to exert a powerful influence, if he chose, in opposition to the interests of the colony; but he uniformly befriended them, until persons suspected of being in his interest were imprisoned, or ignominiously thrust out of the country, as in the case of Sir Christopher Gardiner, who under the pretence of his "having two wives in

*Gorges, in his description of New England, after stating that there were several sorts of persons who did not altogether agree among themselves, yet all were disaffected towards Episcopal jurisdiction, adds—"Some of the discreeter sort, to avoid what they found themselves subject unto, made use of their friends to procure from the Council for the Affairs of New England to settle a colony within their limits; to which it pleased the thrice honored Earl of Warwick to write to me, then at Plymouth, to condescend that a Patent might be granted to such as then sued for it. Whereupon I gave my approbation so far forth as it might not be prejudicial to my son Robert Gorges' interest, whereof he had a Patent under the seal of the Council. Hereupon there was a grant passed, as was thought reasonable [the Mass. Patent]; but the same was after enlarged by his Majesty, and confirmed under the great seal of England; by the authority whereof the undertakers proceeded so effectually, that in a very short time numbers of people of all sorts flocked thither in heaps, that at last it was specially ordered by the king's command, that none should be suffered to go without license first had and obtained, and they to take the oath of supremacy and allegiance. So that what I had long before prophesied, when I could hardly get any for money to reside there, was now brought to pass. The reason of that restraint was grounded upon the several complaints that came out of those parts of the divers sects and schisms that were amongst them, all contemning the public government of the ecclesiastical state. And it was doubted that they would, in short time, wholly shake off the royal jurisdiction of the sovereign state."

England," was arrested while travelling among the Indians, and finally brought back to Boston, where he was thrown into prison. It is now admitted that nothing criminal was proved against him ;* but when the authorities of Massachusetts opened his letters, which had been sent to Boston, one was found to be from Sir Ferdinando Gorges, " who," says the governor, " claims a great part of the bay of Massachusetts ;" and " it appeared," he adds, " from his letters that he had some secret design to recover his pretended right, and that he reposed much trust in Sir Christopher Gardiner."

The case of Thomas Morton was one of, perhaps, less undeserved rigor, though cruel and oppressive ; and it is not strange that both he and Gardiner, on their return to England, should have blazoned the outrages that had been heaped upon them, and turned the benevolent mind of even Gorges himself against his favorite New England. Yet writing at a later period, the worthy knight exonerates many of the colonists from the charge of fanaticism, as well as from the guilt of a treasonable disposition towards the king's government ; " doubtless," he says, " had not the patience and wisdom of Mr. Winthrop, Mr. Humphreys, Mr. Dudley, and others their assistants, been the greater, much mischief would suddenly have overwhelmed them, more than did befall them. Notwithstanding, amongst those great swarms there went many that wanted not love and affection to the honor of the king, and happiness of their native coun-

* Davis in Morton's Mem. 165. See also the sensible remarks of Savage, ed. Winthrop's Journal. I. 54. 57. Young is less judicious. Chron. Mass. 334.

try." Being at length called upon personally by the government, as the author and supporter of the obnoxious proceedings in New England, he found it difficult to avoid the imputations that were raised against him on account of his agency in these matters; and that he might no longer suffer this reproach, he counselled and urged upon the Council the expediency of surrendering their charter to the crown; which was accordingly done, on the 25th April, 1635. It thus appears that while Sir Ferdinando was an object of suspicion and distrust in Massachusetts, he was compelled to suffer imputations of an offensive character at home, on account of the support he gave to the fanatics and traitors of which that colony was believed to consist.

The next event of general interest in the history of the State, is the confirmation of the patent from the Council of Plymouth to Gorges by a new charter from the Crown, in which the territory is first styled the Province of Maine,* of which he was made Lord Palatine, with the same powers and privileges as the Bishop of Durham, in the County Palatine of Durham. This charter conferred upon the venerable knight a high degree of feudal authority, and he immediately proceeded to reorganize his jurisdiction in the province by the appointment of a new board of

* Sullivan, Hist. Maine, p. 307, says that "the territory was called the Province by way of a compliment to the queen of Charles I, who was a daughter of France, and owned as her private estate a province there, called the Province of Meyne," &c. Such is the prevailing impression as to the origin of the name finally given by Gorges to his province, but unfortunately for its accuracy, the province of Maine in France did not appertain to Queen Henrietta Maria, but to the crown; nor is it discoverable that she possessed any interest in that province. The biography of this queen recently published by Miss Strickland, is a work of intense interest, and apparently drawn from original and authentic sources.

Commissioners, at the head of whom he first placed Sir Thomas Josselyn, but that gentleman not coming over, he substituted in his place his truly and well beloved cousin, Thomas Gorges, Esq., who arrived at Boston in the summer of 1640. Governor Winthrop speaks of him as "a young gentleman of the Inns of Court; * * * sober and well disposed; he staid a few days at Boston, and was very careful to take advice of our magistrates how to manage his affairs." He took up his residence at Agamenticus, which was now incorporated into a city, by the name of Gorgeana, with a mayor and recorder, and seven aldermen.* At this place also it was ordained by the charter that Wednesday in every week should be market day, and that there should be two fairs held every year, viz., upon the feast days of St. James and St. Paul.

The plan of government for the Province was based upon the Saxon forms existing in England, and as old as the days of king Alfred. The province was to be divided into eight counties, and these into sixteen hundreds; the hundreds to be subdivided into parishes and tythings, as the people should increase. In the absence of the Lord Proprietor, a Lieutenant was to preside. A chancellor for the hearing of civil causes; a treasurer to receive the revenue; a marshal for the command of the militia; a marshal's court for criminal matters; an admiral and court of admiralty for maritime cases; a master of ordnance, and a secretary; were severally constituted. These officers were to be a standing council, together with eight deputies to be elected by the people, one for

* On Smith's map this place is named *Boston*, at the instance of Prince Charles.

each county. One lieutenant and eight justices were allowed to each county; two head-constables to every hundred; one constable and four tythingmen to every parish; each tythingman to give an account of the demeanor of the families within his tything to the constable of the parish, who was to render the same to the head constables of the hundred, and they to the lieutenant and justices of the county, who were to take cognizance of all misdemeanors; and from them an appeal lay to the governor and council.

Such was the system of government Gorges designed to introduce into his province of Maine; but it is hardly necessary to say that it was not fully carried into effect. The civil war in England withdrew the attention of the Lord Proprietor from his own private affairs; the governor was called home, and in the distractions of the times, the colony of Massachusetts Bay undertook to set up a title to the greater part of the Province, under color of which they took possession of it, and excluded the heirs of Gorges from the exercise of their rights. Maine was thus summarily annexed to Massachusetts Bay, but not without a spirited resistance on the part of the authorities of the province, and most of the inhabitants.

The pretext for this usurpation was found in the terms of the Massachusetts patent, which established the northern boundary on a line three miles north of the river Merrimac, and the southern three miles south of Charles river, the intermediate space being taken for the breadth of the grant. But when it subsequently appeared that the course of the Merrimac changed at a certain distance from the sea, and that its head-waters were situated far to the north, the old

limits were abandoned, and a new line drawn for the northern boundary of the patent, beginning at a point three miles north of the head waters of the river, and so running easterly to the sea. Both New Hampshire and the greater part of Maine were found by this construction to be within the bounds of the Massachusetts patent.

The New Hampshire towns, having been settled chiefly from Massachusetts Bay, were not reluctant to be brought within her jurisdiction; * but it was otherwise with the inhabitants of Maine. Commissioners were sent "to treat with the gentlemen of the eastward," in the language of the Massachusetts Records, in the summer of 1652. Edward Godfrey, of York, was at that time Governor of Maine, and represented the interests of the heirs of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, who was then dead. Called upon by the commissioners of Massachusetts to submit to the authority of that colony, Godfrey resolutely refused, declaring that the bounds of Massachusetts had been determined twenty years ago, since which time many grants had been made in Maine, a sum of £35,000 expended in promoting the settlement of the country, and a lawful jurisdiction exercised, which had been acknowledged by Massachusetts and approved by the English government. "We are resolved,"

* The original settlers of New Hampshire, who planted themselves at the mouth of the Piscataqua as early as 1623, under the auspices of Mason and Gorges, were of the Church of England; but after the death of Mason, (1635,) the new settlers were almost entirely non-conformists. Miss Aikin, in her Memoirs of Charles I., recounting what had been done for the colonization of the new world prior to the accession of that monarch, states that "a small band of emigrant Puritans had established themselves in New Hampshire." Vol. 1. p. 29. This statement is without doubt founded on a misapprehension of the character of the settlements in that quarter at the period in question.

said the Governor, "to exercise our just jurisdiction till it shall please the Parliament, the Common Weale of England, otherwise to order, under whose power and protection we are."

Gorges had taken care to encourage the settlement of members of the church of England in his province, and a considerable proportion of the inhabitants were of that faith; hence there was a strong aversion among them to coming under the rule of the Puritans, by this new process of annexation. But this was not all; a deep sense of the flagrant injustice of the claim of Massachusetts to the soil of Maine, after the royal confirmation of the grant to Gorges and his heirs, produced an exasperated state of feeling throughout the Province, and led in many instances to scenes of open violence. As a matter of prudence, however, the towns gradually decided to acquiesce in the change until intelligence could be obtained from the heir of Gorges, and there should be a prospect of offering a successful resistance to such a palpable usurpation. It must be admitted, likewise, that the people were somewhat divided in their feelings, a portion who sympathised with the religious views of the claimants forming a party in their favor. The puritan divines were of course on the side of Massachusetts, and when one of them upon the Lord's day had exhorted the people to be earnest in prayer to the Lord to direct them in respect they were under two forms of government, one of the congregation started up and angrily rebuked him, saying, that he "need not make such a preamble, for they were under the government of Gorges." An Episcopal clergyman, whom the Massachusetts authorities had forbidden

to baptize children, and perform other duties of his sacred office, was presented by a grand jury for expressing his opinion of those in power with too great freedom; in saying "that the Governor of Boston was a rogue, and all the rest thereof traitors and rebels against the king." Such was the excited state of feeling produced by the unjustifiable course of Massachusetts at that period.

On the restoration of Charles II., Ferdinando Gorges, Esq., a grandson of the old Lord Proprietor, sent over his agent with letters from the king to the Governor of Massachusetts Bay, requiring either a restitution of his lawful inheritance, or that they should show reason for the occupation of the Province of Maine. The next step was the appointment of Commissioners by the crown to visit New England, and enquire into all existing grievances. They came into Maine in the summer of 1665, and issued their proclamation, in which they charge the Massachusetts colony with having "refused by the sound of the trumpet to submit to his majesty's authority, looking upon themselves as the supreme power in those parts, contrary to their allegiance and derogatory to his Majesty's sovereignty." They then proceed to appoint a number of gentlemen in the Province, known to be friendly to the claims of Gorges, as magistrates to exercise authority there until his Majesty's pleasure be further known. These were Messrs. Champernon * and Cutts, of Kittery; Rishworth and Johnson, of York; Wheelwright, of Wells; Hook and Phillips, of Saco; Josselyn, of Black Point, now

* Francis Champernon was a relative of Sir W. Raleigh, whose mother was a daughter of Sir Philip Champernon of Devonshire.

Scarborough; Jordan, of Richmond's Island; Mounjoy, of Casco, now Portland; and Wincoll, of Newichawanock, afterwards Berwick.

Massachusetts did not long acquiesce in this arrangement; for in July, 1668, four commissioners escorted by a military force entered the Province and proceeded to hold a court at York. The king's magistrates were present and remonstrated, but to no purpose. The account of the matter given by John Josselyn, who was then residing with his brother at Black Point, is, that "as soon as the commissioners were returned from England, the Massachusetts men entered the Province in a hostile manner with a troop of horse and foot, and turned the judge and his assistants off the bench, imprisoned the major or commander of the militia, and threatened the judge and some others that were faithful to Mr. Gorges' interest." *

At length both parties to this exciting controversy appeared by their agents before the king at the palace of Whitehall, and his Majesty, upon a fair hearing of their respective claims, "decided that the Province of Maine was the rightful property of the heirs of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, both as to soil and the government." As soon as this decision was known, an agent of Massachusetts made overtures to Mr. Gorges for the purchase of his title, which he finally sold to that colony, in March, 1677, for the sum of £1250 sterling, or about six thousand dollars. This transaction gave great offence to his friends in the Province, who sent a remonstrance to England, but

* Josselyn's Two Voyages to New England. p. 198. London, 1675.

it was too late. Such, however, was the continued opposition to the authority of Massachusetts on the part of the inhabitants, that it became necessary to send an armed force into the Province to awe the people into submission and prevent disturbances.

Maine was now fairly annexed to Massachusetts, not in accordance with the wishes of the people, but by a legal transfer of the soil and government for a valuable consideration; and in the act of taking possession by that colony, the title of Gorges was duly recited; nothing further was heard of its being embraced in their own patent. A separate government was now organized for the Province, at the head of which Thomas Danforth, Esq., of Cambridge, was placed with the title of President of the Province of Maine. This state of things continued without interruption, except during the violent administration of Sir Edmund Andros, until the revolution in England, resulting in the deposition of James II. and the elevation of William and Mary to the throne. A new charter was then received, which united in one province the colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay, the Province of Maine and the territory east of it to the St. Croix, and Nova Scotia. Sir William Phipps, a native of Maine, arrived at Boston with this charter, on the 14th of May, 1692, at the same time bearing a commission as Governor of the "Province of Massachusetts Bay,"—the name given in the new charter to the several jurisdictions united under it.

There are other topics to which I had proposed to call your attention in connexion with a rapid review of the leading events in the early history of this State;

but I have already trespassed too long upon the attention of the society, and shall conclude my remarks with a few words more in reference to the brave old knight who devoted the best part of a long life to efforts for the discovery and settlement of the territory of which this state originally consisted. Little is known of Sir Ferdinando Gorges before he engaged in that great work, but there is no doubt that he early distinguished himself in the public service, and received in reward of his services the honor of knighthood, which like other honors was sparingly bestowed by Queen Elizabeth. The family of Gorges had an ancient seat at Wraxall in Somersetshire, six miles and a half from Bristol; in the church at that place is a large altar tomb, with figures of Sir Edmund Gorges, K. B., and Anne, his wife, daughter of John Howard, the first Duke of Norfolk.* In the same neighborhood, in the parish of Long Ashton, was the Manor of Ashton Phillips, belonging to Sir Ferdinando. The village of Long Ashton lies on the southeast slope of an eminence called Ashton Hill, about five miles from Bristol, affording a fine drive from the city, as the road through the parish commands an extensive view of Bristol, Clifton, and a number of villages on the opposite banks of the Avon. In a valley to the southwest of the village is

* They resided at Wraxhall as early as the year 1260, when Ralph de Gorges was governor of Sherburne Castle; "from whose time the family hath been continued there, and is lately [about the year 1700] reduced to an issue-female." *Camden's Britannia*, 2d edition. In 1350, one of the Russels of Gloucestershire, "being enriched," says Camden, "by marriage with an heir of the honorable family of the Gorges, assumed that name." This person was of the family of Russels since raised to the peerage. Lord Edward Gorges, an active member of the Council of Plymouth, and at one time its President, was evidently related to Sir Ferdinando; he was of Wiltshire.

the manor of Ashton Phillips. The manor-house is now in ruins; it seems to have been a structure of considerable extent and grandeur, but only a small portion of the dwelling apartments, and the chapel remain.

As early as 1597, we find him embarked in the expedition of the Earl of Essex against the Spanish islands, in the capacity of Serjeant Major, corresponding to the rank of senior colonel in the army, at the same time holding the office of Governor of the Forts at Plymouth. We next hear of him as a witness on the trial of the Earl of Essex for high treason, in the year 1600. The course taken by Gorges on that occasion must have been deeply painful to his feelings, and has subjected his memory to the reproaches of those writers who were more moved by sympathy for the unhappy fate of that illustrious nobleman, than governed by a strict regard to the circumstances of the case. No one can doubt on reading the accounts of this matter, that the designs of Essex were of a treasonable character, and that relying upon his great popularity, he hoped at least to overawe the queen, and drive his enemies from court. Great discontent prevailed generally among the nobility and gentry, of whom one hundred and twenty were believed to be favorable to the intended movement. In this number Gorges was reckoned, but although disposed to aid that nobleman in all lawful means for counteracting the machinations of his enemies, it does not appear that he countenanced, or was even made acquainted with, any designs against the Queen. When called upon by the government in the course of the trial to state

more fully what had passed between him and the conspirators, he was urged both by Essex and the Earl of Southampton, (who was tried at the same time,) to state fully what he knew of their plans; his reply was:—"Some delivered their minds one way, and some another; but by the oath I have taken, I did never know or hear any thought or purpose of hurt or disloyalty intended to her Majesty's person by my Lord of Essex."

In his testimony in chief he admitted that Essex had written to him, complaining of his misfortunes and expressing a determination to free himself from the malice of his enemies; at the same time requesting Sir Ferdinando to come up to London, that he might confer with him. Gorges accordingly repaired to town, as he states, a week before the insurrection, and had several interviews with the Earl, when he endeavored to dissuade him from his imprudent designs, but all to no purpose. He did not, however, abandon him; on the contrary, he was at Essex-house when the insurrection took place; a large number of the conspirators, including several noblemen, were assembled there, undecided it would seem for a long time as to the course they should pursue. In the meantime, Sir Walter Raleigh, who was regarded by Essex as his greatest enemy, sent a messenger to Gorges at Essex-house, desiring to speak with him on the river; and taking a boat from the garden, which appears to have extended down to the water's edge, beyond the west gate of the city, Sir Ferdinando, with the approbation of Essex, proceeded to meet Sir Walter, who earnestly advised him to withdraw from Essex house, as he valued his life. Raleigh

also testified on the trial, that Gorges assured him it was likely to prove a bloody day's work, and desired him to go to Court that measures might be taken to prevent it. Gorges then returned to Essex house.

In the meantime, the Queen being apprised of the assemblage at Essex house, resorted to an unusual step; for instead of despatching a military force to disperse the conspirators, she sent four distinguished personages, members of the privy council, among whom was Chief Justice Popham, to Essex house to use their personal influence as well as the authority of their offices, to induce the malecontents to give over their designs. "All four had been chosen," says Southey, "not only because of their merit, but also because they were persons whom he was supposed both to respect, and to regard as friends." They found the gates shut, but were admitted without their attendants except the pursebearer with the great seal, the Lord keeper being one of the four dignitaries, who appear to have gone in their official robes and badges of office. The leaders and their company were assembled in the court-yard, and crowded around the counsellors as they advanced towards the Earl of Essex, to whom the Lord keeper in a loud voice delivered the Queen's message, "that they were sent to learn the cause of so great a concourse of people, and let them know that they should be heard if they complained of any grievances they wished to have redressed." Essex replied in an angry tone, reciting the causes of his disaffection; and the Earl of Southampton also addressed them in a similar strain. The lord chief justice then promised that they would faithfully report their com-

plaints to her Majesty. But a tumult arising among the crowd, the Lord keeper commanded all upon their allegiance to lay down their arms and depart. Essex thereupon went into the house, followed by the four counsellors, who desired a private interview with him; but when they had entered his library, the Earl gave orders to fasten the doors, and committed them as prisoners to the charge of three persons, one of whom, named Salisbury, is said to have been a notorious robber, who "bore a special spleen against the lord chief justice." A guard was set by these persons at the door of the library, with loaded muskets and lighted matches.

Essex then leaving his house in the charge of Sir Gilly Merrick, sallied forth with about 200 men, and entered the city by Ludgate, (which was not far from Essex-house,) uttering loud cries, the purport of which was that the Queen was in danger, and that "England was bought and sold to the Spaniards." Hastening along Cheapside, they came to the house of the Sheriff, on whom they seem to have reckoned, but that official made his escape by the back door of his house, and repaired to the lord mayor. Thus checked, and finding that not so much as one man of even the lowest quality joined them, Essex remained in the sheriff's house undecided which way he should turn.

In the meantime, formal proclamation was made in another quarter of the city, denouncing Essex and his adherents as traitors; who upon being informed of it rushed again into the streets, calling upon the citizens to arm; but in vain. The only resource left to the unhappy Earl was to return to his own house, and endeavor to obtain pardon by means of the four

members of the Council whom he had left there in confinement. But on reaching Ludgate, he found it guarded by a competent force, that refused to allow him to pass; whereupon he gave Gorges a token, authorizing him to go alone to Essex-house and release the Lord Chief Justice, and by his means intercede for pardon. Sir Ferdinando, finding that the Chief Justice refused his liberty unless the Lord keeper also were released, set all the four councillors free, and went with them by water to the court.* This prudent course on the part of Gorges probably saved him from the consequences of having followed the fortunes of Essex until they became desperate; to have gone farther would have been madness.

Meantime, after the sacrifice of several lives in their efforts to escape from the city, Essex and his followers succeeded in reaching his house, which they at first proposed to defend, but finally surrendered, and were committed to the Tower and other prisons. In eleven days after the failure of this desperate enterprise, the earls of Essex and Southampton were arraigned for high treason, and found guilty. A few days after, five of their associates, Sir Christopher Blount, Sir Charles Davers, Sir John Davis, Sir Gilly Merrick, and Henry Cuffe, were also tried and convicted of the same offence. They all suffered death except the Earl of Southampton, who was finally pardoned.

After these events Gorges appears to have returned to his government at Plymouth, where we have already seen that he was residing in 1605, when

* Camden. Annales Rerum Ang. et Hib. 610.

George Weymouth arrived at that port from his visit to Penobscot river, bringing with him the five Indians who first turned the attention of Sir Ferdinando to the American coast. He is again noticed in the general histories of that period as the commander of one of the ships sent to the aid of the king of France in 1625; but as soon as it was suspected that they were to be used against the French Protestants, there was a general desertion of the officers and men, on which occasion Sir Ferdinando is described as having behaved with great spirit; for abruptly breaking away from the rest of the fleet, he returned at once to England, at the hazard of incurring the displeasure of the king and his favorite Buckingham.

It has already been stated that in the civil wars he took up arms in defence of his king. Towards the close of 1642, when hostilities had just commenced, efforts were made by the royal party to introduce troops into the city of Bristol, which had not yet taken sides in the contest. For this purpose Sir Ferdinando Gorges and Mr. Smith of Long Ashton, were deputed to wait on the mayor to obtain his consent; but the application failed. The city was then invested by a large force in the interest of the king, and soon after surrendered. In 1645, Cromwell recaptured it by assault; and it is stated by Josselyn, a contemporary writer, that Sir Ferdinando was plundered and thrown into prison. It is probable that he died soon after, for in the same year the following order was adopted by the court in his Province of Maine: "It is ordered, that Richard Vines shall have power to take into his possession the goods and chattels of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, and to pay such debts

as Sir Ferdinando is in any way indebted to any." At the same time a public fast was ordered to be "solemnly kept upon Thursday, 20th of November next, through this Province." Vines had been for many years the agent of Gorges in this country, before and after its settlement, and for at least fifteen years a resident on the west side of Saco river, on a patent granted him by the Council of Plymouth, now constituting the town of Biddeford. After the departure of Thomas Gorges, he was elected governor of the Province, and held that office until the death of his patron and friend, when he sold his patent and removed to the island of Barbadoes.

A grandson of the Lord Proprietor, Ferdinando Gorges, Esq., as we have already noticed, succeeded to the proprietorship of the Province, some time before the restoration of Charles II. To him we are indebted for the publication of his grandfather's Brief Narration, a work evidently written with a deep conviction of the future importance of these western shores, and illustrating the indomitable spirit of enterprise that distinguished its author to the very close of a long and useful life.

I cannot, perhaps, more appropriately conclude these remarks than with this imperfect notice of the man who must ever be regarded as the most active and persevering of all the friends of American colonization, through periods of discouragement and difficulty; and especially as the Founder of this Commonwealth. In my humble opinion, Maine owes some public acknowledgment to the memory of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, for having laid the foundation of its existence as a separate and independent commu-

nity. In ancient times, we are told, the founders of colonies were deified by their successors; this was doubtless an exaggerated expression of the proper feeling to be entertained for them. But it will not be denied that their services merit a substantial commemoration at the hands of their posterity. Nor have our American republics altogether neglected to pay tributes of gratitude and admiration to the great and good men who had the forecast to scatter the seeds of future growth and prosperity within their borders. Bradford and Winthrop are names that will never die amongst their successors at Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay; Pennsylvania will never forget her obligations to the illustrious Friend of humanity who peopled her wilderness; nor will Georgia suffer the memory of the enlightened Oglethorpe to perish; Maryland has stamped the name of Baltimore upon her brilliant commercial metropolis, and North Carolina has her "city of Raleigh," although the projected colony of Sir Walter proved a splendid failure. And shall Maine do nothing to mark her sense of the merits of the liberal patron and successful abettor of the first settlements within her limits—who expended a large fortune upon his projects of discovery and colonization—who, when the country was abandoned and denounced by others as too cold and dreary for human habitation, actually hired men to pass the winter here to prove the contrary—and who died without reaping any substantial return for all his labors and outlays, leaving only a legacy of law suits to his descendants? It is time that justice was done to his memory. From the small beginning he made this community has become a wide-

ly extended, populous and wealthy state—rich in her resources, and not less distinguished for the active enterprise and laborious industry of her population. She can well afford to honor the memory of the man who foresaw all this, and devoted the energies of a long life to its consummation.

But the appeal is unneccessary; for I address an association that has in its keeping the historical reputation of the State and its Founder, and that will not suffer to perish a single existing memorial of the services of those who led the way in planting religion and civilization upon these northern shores. The wilderness has budded and blossomed like the rose, and those who are now living reap the benefits of its changed condition. Let them not begrudge a handful of its floral treasures to deck the tomb of the gallant old cavalier who sowed the seeds from which have sprung so much beauty and fragrance.

ADDITIONAL NOTES.

PAGE 14. At the period of the discovery of America, the Tartars had been driven from China, and the Khans were of course no longer at the head of its government. This revolution took place A. D., 1366. But this fact was then unknown in Europe ; and the only available source of knowledge respecting that vast empire seems to have been the travels of Marco Polo, whose visit to China preceded the age of Columbus by a period of two centuries. Strictly, the northern part of the country was then called Cathay, or Kathai, and the southern Mangi, or Mangee. Had Columbus succeeded in reaching China, his Arabian interpreters, would have been of course, useless to him.

PAGE 15. The island of *S. Joan* is laid down on the map of Ortelius, in about latitude 56 degrees north. This writer professes to have seen a map of the world by Sebastian Cabot, which he cites among his authorities. " Sebastianus Cabotus, Venetus. *Universalem Tabulam, quam impressam æneis formis vidimus, sed sine nomine loci et impressoris.*" No such map is now extant.

PAGES 16 and 17. It appears that the first general name for all that portion of North America extending to the north of Florida, was BACCALAOS, meaning the land or coast of codfish. Such was the interpretation given to the name by the Breton and Norman sailors, " La Coste des Molues." DE BRY. *Americæ Pars Quarta.* p. 69.

Next came the name of NORUMBEGA, at one time of an application equally extensive. This was followed by CADIE, or ACADIE, which, however, soon divided the honor with VIRGINIA. Virginia, in its turn, was cut up into North and South Virginia, and afterwards was still further limited to the country between Florida and Delaware Bay, North Virginia taking the names of New England and New Netherland.

PAGE 22. An account of Weymouth's voyage was published the same year at London, and attracted public attention to a considerable degree. This work has been recently reprinted in the Collections of the Mass. Hist. Society, Vol. 28th, from a transcript procured in England by Mr. Sparks. The title of the book is as follows:—" A True Relation of the most prosperous Voyage made this present year, 1605, by Captain George Weymouth, in the discovery of the LAND of VIRGINIA, where he discovered, sixty miles up, a most excellent river ; together with a most fertile land. Written by James Rosier, a gentleman employed in the voyage. London ; Impensis Geor. Bishop. 1605." The chapter in Purchas containing extracts from this work, has additional particulars of the voy-

age, derived doubtless from oral or other communications made to the author by the navigators on their return to England. The patron of the enterprise was Lord Arundel of Wardour, created Count of the Empire by Rodolph II. Emperor of Germany, for his gallant services against the Turks.

Pages 24. 25. "In the south CHAPEL of this church [of Wellington] there is a magnificent tomb, erected in honor of Sir John Popham, lord chief justice of England in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It is surrounded by a handsome pallisado of wood and iron. On the table of the monument are the effigies of Sir John Popham and his lady. He is dressed in his judge's robes, chain, and small square cap. He reclines with his head towards the west. On the lower basement, at the head and feet, are four smaller figures of two men and two women, kneeling face to face. On the north side are five boys and eight girls, dressed in black, kneeling in a row. On the south side are nine women, kneeling in the same manner. Over Sir John and his lady is a superb arched canopy, beautifully ornamented with the family arms, roses, paintings, and obelisks. The whole is supported by eight round columns of black marble, five feet high, with Corinthian capitals, green and gilt. On the west side of this canopy is the following inscription:—

'Sir John Popham, knighte, Lord Chief Justice of England; and of the honourable privie counsel to Queen Elizabeth, and after to king James; died the tenth of June, 1607, aged seventy-six, and is here interred.'

"It may not be improper to remark here, that Sir John Popham was one of the most upright and able judges that ever sat upon the English bench. He was a native of Huntwith, in this county [Somersetshire], and educated chiefly at Baliol College, in Oxford. From hence he removed to the Temple, and was admitted barrister in 1568. He was afterwards successively serjeant at law, solicitor-general, and attorney-general, previous to his ultimate promotion, which took place in 1592. Sir John was a munificent patron to Wellington. Here he built a large and elegant house, for his own residence, which was converted into a garrison for the use of the parliamentary army, in the time of Oliver Cromwell. It was soon after besieged by the royalists, and so completely ruined during the contest, that it was never attempted to be repaired. He also erected an hospital at the west end of the town, for twelve old and infirm persons, the one half being men, and the other women. Two children were also to be educated here. It is still standing [1813], and the charity applied. Sir John endowed it with an estate in land, which is now vested in the governors." *The Beauties of England and Wales*, &c. by Rev. J. Nightingale. vol. 13th, Art. SOMERSETSHIRE.

Aubrey, whose notices of Eminent Men are a repository of contemporary scandal, says that for several years after Popham entered the legal profession, he "addicted himself but little to the studie of the lawes, but profligate company, and *was wont to take a purse with them.* His wife considered her and his condition, and at last prevailed with him to lead another life, and to stick to the study of the lawe; which, upon her importunity, he did, being then about thirtie years old. He spake to his wife to provide a very good entertainment for his camerades to take his leave of them; and after that day fell extremely hard to his studie, and profited exceedingly. He was a strong, stout man, and could

endure to sit at it day and night; became eminent at his calling, had good practice, was called to be a serjeant [at law],———a judge." Vol. 2. p. 492.

Then follows a story of the judge having been bribed to save the life of a man tried for infanticide; but the manner in which he was able to effect such a result, is not stated. The annotator remarks, that "Sir John Popham gave sentence according to lawe, but being a great person and a favorite, he procured a *noli prosequi*."

The author of the Discourse on Sir W. Raleigh, referred to in the text, in his zeal to vindicate his hero, does not hesitate to charge the chief justice with "taking purses on the highway, and bribes on the bench," on the sole authority of the gossiping writer above cited. The reader will be able to satisfy his own mind, probably, without much trouble, as to the probability of those charges being well founded.

Grahame, *Hist. U. S.* is also disposed to treat the chief justice with some harshness, for the same cause, namely, his supposed readiness to have Raleigh convicted. But that author should have recollected that it was to one of his own nation that Sir Walter owed all his misfortunes, namely, king James, the Sixth of Scotland.

Pages 56. 57. Morton devotes a chapter of his "*New English Canaan*" to Sir Christopher Gardiner, whom he characterizes as "a knight, that had been a traveller, both by sea and land; a good judicious gentleman in the mathematicks and other sciences useful for plantations, chimistry, &c. and also being a practical Engineer; he came into those parts intending discovery." p. 182. Again, he says, "Sir Christopher was gone with a guide (a salvage) into the inland parts for discovery; but before he was returned, he met with a salvage that told the guide, Sir Christopher would be killed," &c. But he, "finding how they had used him, with such disrespect, took shipping, and disposed of himself for England, and discovered their practices in those parts towards his Majestie's true-hearted subjects, whom they made wary of their abode in those parts."

Morton's testimony will of course pass for what it is worth. Sir Christopher and himself both incurred the displeasure of the puritan fathers, and joined common cause together in opposing their interests in England; but it is always best to hear both sides of a case. It must be allowed that the treatment of these gentlemen was rigorous in the extreme, considering that their chief offence consisted in not harmonizing in sentiment with the people among whom they were thrown.

Pages 59, 64. Sir Thomas Josselyn, named in the first charter of Maine at the head of the Commissioners to organize the government, was the father of Henry Josselyn, Esq., of Black Point, (now Scarborough,) and of John Josselyn, Gent., the traveller, whose two voyages to New England are often quoted in connexion with its early history. This appears from Morton, who speaking of the "Erocoise Lake," [Lake Champlain], says, "A more complete discovery of those parts is (to my knowledge) undertaken by Henry Joseline, Esquire, son of Sir Thomas Joseline, of Kent, knight, by the approbation and appointment of that heroic and very good Commonwealth's man, Captain John Mason, Esquire, a

true foster-father and lover of virtue, who at his own charge hath fitted Master Joseline, and employed him to that purpose," &c. *New English Canaan, pp.* 98, 99.

Henry Josselyn resided many years at Black Point, and was highly respected as a magistrate. He succeeded Mr. Vines as Governor of the Province, in 1645.

I cannot conclude this note without expressing my sincere acknowledgments to Henry Brevoort, Esq., of the city of New York, for the loan of a copy of Morton's *New English Canaan*, now a very rare book.

Page 65. The following Petition, signed by one hundred and fifteen inhabitants of Maine, was transmitted to England about the year 1680.

" To the King's most excellent Majesty, the humble Petition of your Majesty's freeborn subjects, the inhabitants of the Province of Maine in New England.

Humbly Sheweth, That your Majesty's Father, of ever blessed memory, by his letters patent, bearing date at Westminster, in the 15th year of his reign, did grant unto Sir Ferdinando Gorges, his heirs and assigns, that tract of land called the Province of Maine, making the same equal with the Palatinate of Durham, and to enjoy the like privileges to lay out and grant townships, to dispose of lands not disposed of before, and that no laws be exercised in the Province but such as were made and consented to by your Majesty's freeholders inhabiting said Province. And that your petitioners, upon these invitations and encouragements, did settle in the said Province in great numbers, and in short time increased unto several townships, having amongst us several Courts of Judicature and Records, and for divers years were governed according to their laws, (agreeable to the laws of England,) made by the Commissioners of Sir Ferdinando Gorges and the freeholders therein.

That the Bostoners, under the pretence of an imaginary patent line, did invade our right and privileges, erecting their own authority by causing the inhabitants to swear fidelity to their government. That about the year 1661, upon our humble representation of these matters, your Majesty was graciously pleased by your royal authority, by your royal letters of 1664 to that government, to require them not farther to disturb nor meddle in the Province, which they then refused to obey.

Whereupon your Petitioners representing their grievances to your Majesty's Commissioners in 1665, they solemnly restored and re-established your Majesty's authority amongst us, by which we administered the oaths of allegiance, and proceeded to govern and ———y to our former laws, and so continued till about the year 1668, when Maj. Leveret, Waldron, and others, entered upon the Province, and with force of arms disturbed the inhabitants, then at a Court holden for your Majesty, at York,* in your Majesty's Province of Maine, commanding all proceedings for the future to be managed by their own authority and laws. Since which time, notwithstanding the great loss sustained by the late Indian war, we are still oppressed by heavy rates and taxes, imposing the sum of £3000, and upwards, to be collected and paid by the inhabitants of three towns, (viz.) York, Wells, and Kittery.

* Previously called Agamenticus, and, by its city charter, Gorgeana.

Your Petitioners humbly pray your Majesty to take the premises into your royal consideration, and by your gracious letters to re-establish and confirm us under your royal authority, granting liberty to tender consciences to empower such whose names we here humbly represent to govern according to the laws and constitutions of this your Majesty's Province, until your Majesty's pleasure be further known therein, to which we shall in all readiness and duty submit.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray."

See the names of the petitioners, 1 *Maine Hist. Coll.* 303, 304.

The correspondence between Edward Godfrey and the Secretary of Massachusetts, is published in 1 Hazard's *State Papers*. In answer to what was said by the Secretary respecting the favors to be conferred on the people of Maine by their coming under the jurisdiction of that colony, Godfrey remarks—"As for showing your favors to us, by your favor, gentlemen, we are loth to part with our precious liberties for unknown and uncertain favors. We resolve to exercise our just jurisdiction till it shall please the Parliament, the Common Weal of England, otherwise to order, under whose power and protection we are."

See also a Report of a Committee of Reference on the petition of Robert Mason, Edward Godfrey, and others, to the King, in 1661, published in the appendix to Belknap's *New Hampshire*, No. 16.

Page 72. Rosier, in his description of Weymouth's voyage, has recorded the names of the Indians carried to England, from the coast of Maine; he says, "The names of the five savages which we brought home into England, which are all yet alive, are these:

1. Tahanedo, a sagamore or commander.
2. Amoret, } Gentlemen.
2. Skicowaros, } Gentlemen.
4. Maneddo, } Gentlemen.
5. Saffacomoit, a servant."

Gorges gives the following as the names of those among them that were committed to his charge: Manida, Skettwarroes, and Tasquantum. *Brief Narration*, Chap. 2.

Page 72. Admiral Pennington had the command of the ships that were to be delivered to the French. On ascertaining, on his arrival at Dieppe, the destination of the ships, he returned to England; but receiving fresh orders to the same effect as before, "he went back to Dieppe," says Rushworth, "and put the Vantguard into the absolute power and command of the French King, to be employed in his service at pleasure, and commanded the rest of the fleet to the like surrender. At the first, the Captains, Masters, and Owners refused to yield, weighed anchor, and were making away; but when Pennington shot, they came in again, but Sir Ferdinando Gorges came away with the ship called the Neptune." *Rushworth. Hist. Coll.* 176.