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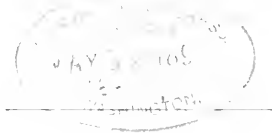
HISTORY  
OF THE  
LOWER KENNEBEC.

1602-1889.

—BY—

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BATH, MAINE.

1889.

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## PREFACE.

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It may in truth be said that there is no region in North America richer in ancient historic events than the valley of the Kennebec River. This is especially true of the lower portion, from Merrymeeting Bay to the ocean, which was called Sagadahoc two hundred and fifty years ago. The occupancy of this river ante-dates Plymouth thirteen years and the old Bay State Colony twenty-one years.

The Kennebec was explored and its resources were extolled by voyagers from England and France as early as 1602, and these nations were rivals for supremacy here for many years.

The wonderful descriptions given by the historian of Weymouth's voyage in 1605, fired the English heart from prince to yeoman to possess this "goodly and benefyciall of all rivers," in consequence of which the English succeeded in holding almost continuous possession from that time onward.

The first sermon preached on the main land in New England, was at the mouth of the Kennebec. The first vessel ever built in this country was launched into these waters; it marked the beginning of that special industry which has made the Kennebec famous throughout the world. From the commencement of the Indian wars in 1675 until permanent peace after 1759 the settlers on the Kennebec endured more hardships, cruelty

and devastations from the savage foe, than were experienced in almost any other part of the country.

In the territory comprising Maine, the first hostile blow was struck at Sagadahoc, and here also the tribes were the last to relent. These events give an interesting and peculiar charm to the history of the Lower Kennebec. Our sources of information regarding them are partly tradition, and partly fragmentary writing more or less inaccurate.

But to gather up these events, to sift fact from fancy, to correct dates as far as possible and to place in permanent form that which is worthy of being handed down to posterity, has been the aim of the historical researches embodied in this work. Infallibility is not claimed; no historian ever attains that desired end, but careful investigation and personal effort have been given to the preparation of this story of the Lower Kennebec.

With the intention of eventually making an entire volume, the plan of a series has been adopted as the most desirable method of publication. Each number issued will contain the history of a certain era, complete in itself, even if detached from the series. The number of parts may not exceed six.

PARKER MCCOBB REED.

BATH, October 1, 1889.



## I.

# THE KENNEBEC.

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Since its discovery by the English this river has been termed the "noble Kennebec." No such flattering appellation has been given to any other stream in New England, though many of them can boast of fine proportions and are made attractive by picturesque scenery. The vast volume of water comprising this river may be seen in the fact that a United States Government survey found one thousand streams and three hundred lakes and ponds contributing to it, whose outlet to the ocean is through the Sagadahoc.<sup>1</sup>

From the outlet of Merrymeeting Bay, two miles above Bath, to the mouth of the river, a distance of fourteen miles, the water is deep, with an ample channel for the ebb and flow of the ocean tides which reach back to the Upper Kennebec. Numerous islands dot its surface, while headlands, bluffs, and grassy meadows alternate in its course. Leaving Merrymeeting Bay<sup>2</sup> where the Androscoggin, Cathance and Eastern rivers mingle with the Kennebec, the Sagadahoc rushes through a narrow channel called the Chops, hemmed in by high, rocky abutments, into that broad, straight section of the river called Long Reach, extending a distance of three miles, making a perfect harbor for vessels of the largest size. About two miles below Bath, the City of Ships, the river makes an

<sup>1</sup>"Going out of waters into the sea."

<sup>2</sup>Meeting of the tribes in Council and revelry. Indian name Quabacook.

abrupt turn through <sup>1</sup>“Fiddlers reach,” where in ancient times a violinist fell overboard from a passing vessel, and was drowned, the incident giving the spot its name.

Making another short turn, the river narrows, then widens again from Bluff Head into Jones’ Eddy, immediately below which was the first permanent settlement on the Lower Kennebec. Passing the pleasant village of Phippsburg, the river sweeps to the left and seaward, broadening at Parkers Flats, which is a well known anchorage ground for vessels of all sizes. On the right is “Coxs Head, which was surmounted by a fort during the war of 1812, and from which there is a magnificent view of land and water. From Fort Popham, a mile below at the mouth of the river, a hard, smooth beach stretches a distance of six miles to Cape Small Point. At the left, looking seaward, lies a group of islands enclosing two small bays, while in the distance is the island of Seguin, resembling a rocky sentinel jealously guarding this most interesting river, with Pond Island nearer the mouth.

Constantly narrowing and widening, its bluffs and headlands crowned with a primeval forest, this river was a surprise and delight to the exploring expedition of Waymouth in 1805, whose ship first attempted a passage to Long Reach. The historian\* of the voyage writes, “any man may conceive with what admiration we all consented in joy to enter this river. Many of our Company who had been travelers in sundry countries and in most famous rivers affirmed them not comparable to this, the most beautiful, rich, and secure harboring river that the world

<sup>1</sup>Universally so termed.

<sup>2</sup>Formerly owned by John Cocks and designated in ancient documents as “Cocks’ High Head.”

affordeth. Sir Walter Raleigh in his voyage to Guiana, on the discovery of the river Oronoque, which echoed fame to the ears of the world, gave reasons why it was not to be compared with this which overruleth the dangers of many shoals, and broken ground therewith that was encumbered. Others place it before that notable river in the west called the Rio Grande; some before the rivers Loire, Seine and Bordeaux, in France, which though they be great and goodly rivers, yet it is no detraction for them to be accounted inferior to this."

\*"The river is deep, of a good width, and winds beautifully on towards the ocean, in an exquisitely delightful and happy vale, between verdant hills, rural scenes; its waters swarm with fish of many choice varieties, and is one of the deepest, safest and most convenient for navigation of any in America."

The Rev. J. Bailey, first missionary of the Episcopal church to this river in the middle of the last century, celebrates its varied beauties and grandeur in verse :

The verdant banks of Kennebec,  
Which numerous plants and flowers bedect,  
Thou great majestic stream.  
To swell whose silent, sullen tide,  
A thousand lesser rivers glide,  
And now my favorite theme.

Oft have I seen thy waters pour,  
And with rough horrors foam and roar,  
Adown the precipice ;  
And with impetuous fury force  
Along the winding shores its course,  
To mingle with the seas.

\*Gorges narration.

## II.

### DISCOVERY OF THE RIVER.

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Maine was the pioneer in the founding of New England. Its coast, bays, harbors and rivers with their rich products of fish, fur and lumber, attracted the attention of the earliest explorers.

According to some authorities, the title of Maine came from the Province of Mayne in France, then the property of Queen Henrietta, of England, while others assert that it was given to the main land in contradistinction to the multitude of islands that fringe its coast.

The Lower Kennebec is rich in historic lore ; no section of North America equals it in the record of important events. Connected with its ancient history is that of the early explorations of this coast. As remote as the year 1000 the Norse navigators came down from the higher latitudes and sailed along the coast of Maine. They were bold and skillful seamen, navigating without chart, log, compass or quadrant. Investigation of records among the archives of Iceland develops the fact that Erickson, the famous Norse navigator, discovered North America, sailing to and along our shores, fully five hundred years before the discoveries of Columbus. Indeed, it is suspected that Columbus obtained from the accounts of the voyages of these ancient navigators, the clew to his own discoveries.

The Norsemen may have landed on the shores of the Sagadahoc, as they engaged in fisheries on our coasts. An ancient historian says, "They erected temporary huts at various points in which they dwelt while catching and curing the splendid fish then to be found on this every way wonderful coast." "They called them Booths, hence Booth Bay, the Bay of Booths."

Notwithstanding the prominent position now held by England among the nations of the world, at the time North America was colonized by Europeans, France and Spain overshadowed her. Holland was also a greater commercial power, having two thousand ships, which monopolized the carrying trade, whereas England at that time had about two hundred only. When it became evident that the possession of the wide-spread territory of North America would become of value to any nation, there was great rivalry among European monarchs to secure it.

Henry VII, of England sent over the two explorers John and Sebastian Cabot; the former claimed to have discovered and perhaps landed on the main land of North America in 1497, and the king paid him ten pounds for discovering a continent.

<sup>1</sup>By a mere accident, America barely escaped becoming Spanish territory. The ships bearing Columbus and his companions were heading northward, when a flock of birds flew by them, going in a southerly direction. Believing that by following the course taken by these birds they would make land, they headed the ships accordingly, which brought them to discover an island farther south on which they landed and took possession in the name of the crown of Spain. Had the landing been farther

<sup>1</sup>Dike.

north and on the main, the new world would in all probability have become Spanish territory.

For nearly a century, the discoveries on this continent remained unutilized. With the Elizabethan age, productive of important events, came the enterprise in 1584 of Sir Walter Raleigh in his attempt to colonize Southern Virginia. Although an unsuccessful adventure, it proved the forerunner of other and more successful undertakings.

Before the year 1600, France planted a colony on the St. Lawrence and subsequently, by assumed right of priority of possession claimed the territory extending from the Hudson to Newfoundland. England followed, asserting right to the same territory and made her claim good by occupying Sagadahoc. While it was believed that this country was supremely rich in material resources, the aim to plant its peculiar religious tenets in this virgin country, actuated each nation. Hitherto, the Vatican held sway over the thrones and peoples of Europe, but at this time England had thrown off the Papal yoke. She successfully displaced France and finally established her jurisdiction; New France became North Virginia and Protestant soil.

Thus within the domain of the "Ancient Dominions", including in its scope the territory of the Lower Kennebec, was planted the germ of English supremacy, raising that nation from a third-rate power to one of the first rank, and laying the foundation of her future greatness.

The first attempt of English people to make a permanent settlement under a charter north of the Potomac was within these borders.

With her later colony of Plymouth, the old Bay State has

asserted the prestige of this glorious consummation. The eloquence of a Webster and an Everett, and the sentimental lays of a Hemans, have thrown a charm around the primitive dwellings of these rude pioneers, that is largely imagination. Impartial historians of this later day have aroused a wide spread interest in all that pertains to the early settlements of New England, of which none can take precedence of those on the Kennebec; the earliest ships floated on its waters and the earliest settlers located upon its shores.



### III.

## ANCIENT SAGADAHOC.

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Early in the seventeenth century, England made her first attempt at permanent settlement on the Sagadahoc.

Gosnold was sent over in the barque Concord in 1602. He entered the mouth of the Kennebec, the lower section of which was then called Sagadahoc. He made surveys and desired also to make a settlement, for which purpose he had brought with him "twenty men to remain as population," but they utterly refused to comply with his demands, so he returned home without accomplishing the principal object of his voyage.

During the next year, 1603, Martin Pring came over in command of a ship of 50 tons and was accompanied by another of 26 tons. These vessels brought clothing, hardware and trinkets to exchange for furs and sassafras, which latter was considered at that day a medicinal plant of great value. According to the accounts in the journal of the voyage, this navigator came into the Kennebec; "did not pierce far into the land;" made special mention of the "very goodly groves and woods and sundry sorts of beasts," but saw no inhabitants.

This voyage was followed by the expedition of De Monts to this coast, under a grant to him from the French crown of all the territory from the Hudson to the St. Croix.

In 1605 De Monts, with some other gentlemen of note, accompanied Champlain on an exploring voyage to the coast of Maine, entered the Sheepscot River July 5, and came into the



“Quinibequy” by the way of Wiscasset and the Sasanoa ; penetrated north as far as Merrymeeting Bay ; returned down the river and anchored at its mouth. They continued their voyage southward and returned again to the Kennebec on July 25. Here De Monts set up a cross, claiming as French territory the entire country comprising his grant. Having, however, made no settlement west of the St. Croix, his assumed jurisdiction came to naught.

#### WAYMOUTH'S VOYAGE.

While the French expeditions were in progress, the English people became excited.

What most directly concerns us however, is the next expedition sent out from England. This was the famous voyage of <sup>1</sup>Waymouth.

Lord Arundel, together with other noblemen of England, undertook the enterprise of sending out an exploring expedition under the command of George Waymouth, in the ship Archangel, which started from Bristol at 10 o'clock on May 5, 1605, on a voyage of discovery to the coast of Maine and to find a place “fit for any man to inhabit.”

It was given out that the object of his mission was the discovery of a northwest passage to India. With him were scientific men who had been with Gosnold, one of whom was Rosier, the historian of Waymouth's voyage. In all there were twenty-eight people on the ship.

Waymouth made Cape Cod May 16th, and immediately directed his course northeasterly to reach the coast of Maine.

<sup>1</sup>The using of “a” in Waymouth is according to his autograph, his descendants living in Maine.—Baneroff, Belknap, Willis, Lapham, De Costa, Dike. Mass. His. Col. Vol. XVIII, Page 86. Burrage. Letter of Queen Elizabeth on Waymouth's voyage.

On the morning of the 18th, at 8 o'clock, the "mean high land" was found to be "an island of some six miles in compass," on the north side of which the ship was at length anchored at about a league from the shore. To this island the discoverer gave the name of St. George, but it has since taken the Indian name of Monhegan, signifying Grand Island. At 2 o'clock, the captain with twelve men, visited the island in a boat without penetrating its interior and returned with a load of dry wood picked up on the beach.

They found the island "woody, grown with fir, birch, oak and beech, as far as we saw along the shore. On the verge grew gooseberries, strawberries, wild peach and wild rose bushes. The water issued forth down the rocky cliff in many places; and many fowl of divers kinds breed upon the shore and rocks."

Rosier says: "The next day being Whitsunday; because we rode too open to the sea and winds, we weighted anchor about 12 o'clock, and came along to the other island more adjoining to the main, about three leagues from the first island where we had anchored. Here we found a convenient harbor, in a most safe berth, defended from all winds, in an excellent depth of water for ships of any burthen." This they named Pentecost Harbor, in remembrance of the providence that had brought them in safety "unto so secure a harbor," and of the coincidence of their having anchored there on Pentecost Day. Here Waymouth set up a cross.

"We in the ship espied three canoes coming towards us, which went to the island adjoining, where they went ashore and very quickly made a fire, about which they stood beholding our

<sup>1</sup>Rosier.

ship ; to whom we made signs with our hands, and hats, waving unto them to come unto us, because we had not seen any of the people yet."

"Their clothing is beaver skins or deer skins cast over them like a mantle, and hanging down to their knees, made fast together upon the shoulders with leather ; some of them has sleeves, most had none ; some has buskins of such leather sewed ; they have besides a piece of beaver skin between their legs, made fast about their waist."

"They suffer no hair to grow on their faces, but on their head very long and very black, which those that have wives bind up behind with a leather string in a long, round knot.

"They seemed all very civil and merry, showing tokens of much thankfulness for those things we gave them. We found them a people of exceeding good invention, quick understanding and ready capacity. Their canoes are made without any iron, of the bark of a birch tree, strengthened within with ribs and hoops of wood, in so good fashion, with such excellent ingenious art as they are able to bear seven or eight persons, far exceeding any in the Indies."

The weight of evidence tends to place this harbor among the islands of Booth Bay. They enjoyed "the pleasant fruitfulness of these islands, among the fragrant fir trees, out of which issued turpentine in so marvelous plenty, and so sweet, as our chiurgeon and others affirmed, they never saw so good in England ; with much gum congealed on the outside of the bark, which smelled like frankincense."

To test the fertility of the soil they planted a variety of

<sup>1</sup>Rosier.

seeds, which, before they left, grew in sixteen days to the height of eight inches or more.

On the largest island "we set together a pinnace, which we brought in pieces over from England." The pinnace or shallop is a large boat resembling a whale boat. It was the purpose to make an extensive exploration of the coast with this craft. "The captain with thirteen men, at about ten o'clock on the thirtieth of May, departed on the shallop or pinnace, with all our prayers for their prosperous discovery, leaving the ship in a good harbor, well moored."

Having completed his explorations, the captain returned to the ship and brought the welcome news that he had "discovered a great river, trending alongst into the main forty miles, and by the breadth, depth and strong tide, he believed it to run far up into the land."

Evidence goes to show that this was the river "Kennebec, which had been reached through the Sasanoa passage. Eminent historians coincide in declaring that the Kennebec agrees best with Waymouth's observation of the latitude.

Preparations were now made to take the ship up this newly discovered river.

Before heading his ship for the Kennebec, Waymouth abducted five Indians, an act which has often been condemned by historians, but which was highly approved in England. It marked an era; it was the beginning of the end of the native inhabitants of North America to be superseded by Europeans.

Booth Bay and its islands were favorite hunting and fishing grounds of the red men. At the time of Waymouth's voyage,

<sup>1</sup>Rosier. "The river now known as the Kennebec."—De Costa.

the natives had possibly never seen a European, and the explorers had been some time in Pentecost Harbor before they encountered the dwellers on the soil.

On one island they had found the smouldering embers of a recent fire and near by the "shells of very great eggs, bigger than goose eggs," together with bones of fishes and beasts, but although they searched the island diligently they failed to find the makers of the feast, who evidently were displeased and terrified at the presence of the white men and of a "great canoe with pinions" as they designated the Archangel.

One evening, the restless movements of the dogs on ship-board directed the attention of the ship's crew to three canoes lightly approaching the island nearest the ship, and soon the bright flame of fire that had been kindled on the shore, revealed the forms of several savages. Weymouth's men looked with keen curiosity at this picturesque group and waving their hands and hats to attract the attention of the Indians, they beckoned to them to come nearer.

After some hesitation one canoe with three men, put off for the ship. When quite near, one of them spake in his language very loud and very bold, apparently, asking, "Why she was here?" and pointing his oar toward the open sea motioned "that she should be gone."

Then from the ship gay trinkets were held up. The canoe came "close aboard" and with evident delight the savages received bracelets, rings, and peacock feathers, (with which they adorned their hair,) and tobacco pipes, and gaily returned to their companions on shore. The next day, when the natives again came to the ship, they were made to understand that the

chief object of the visit of the ship to their shores was the exchange of knives and other goods, for skins and furs. They then became friendly.

INTERCOURSE BETWEEN THE ENGLISHMEN AND THE NATIVES.

The confidence of the savages being thus easily gained, they freely came aboard the *Archangel*, and were eager to examine the mysteries of the ship. They promenaded the smooth deck, they lifted the big ropes, they peered in at the cabin windows, and wondered at the kettles and armour they saw there. At the report of firearms they fell flat upon their faces, exhibiting the greatest terror. They ate freely the food offered them but would touch nothing raw. The shining pewter plates they very much admired.

Sometimes they spent the night on board, but would always sleep in an old sail on the orlop. They dined with the captain and nothing they found to eat pleased them quite so well as the cooked peas. They brought rich otter and sable skins and bestowed them upon the ship's company in exchange for mere trifles.

<sup>1</sup>“Our captaine showed them a strange thing which they wondered at. His sword and mine having been touched with the Loadstone, tooke up a knife and held it fast when they plucked it away, made the knife turn, being laid on a blocke, and touching it with his sword, made that take up a needle, whereat they much marvelled. This we did to cause them to imagine some great power in us, and for that to love and feare us.”

When the captain and his crew visited the natives on shore, deer skins were spread by the fire for them to sit upon, and to

<sup>1</sup>Rosier.

their guests they offered tobacco, and pipes that were cunningly made of lobster claws. The home of these savages was picturesque Pemaquid by the sea, which was destined to become a point of historical importance.

Early one Monday morning, several canoes came about the ship and with urgent signs the occupants desired captain Waymouth to go with them "to the main" as they had "much furs and tobacco for trade." Captain Waymouth manned the light-horse-man with fifteen rowers and set out for the shore. The speed of the guiding canoe was marvelous. It would shoot ahead and then coming back would circle round the row boat, the white men all the time rowing as fast as they could. They glided over the waves like a wind driven ship, and if a cross wave turned their canoe upside down, by swimming they righted her and scrambled aboard again.

In the canoe, one of the natives seemed intently numbering the ship's company, with his long bare arm pointing to one and then to another. After repeating this several times, they sped away to the shore, where the camp fires could be plainly seen.

Disliking this manœuvre, the captain decided not to land unless the savages left one of their most respected men as a pawn. This they utterly refused to do but pointed instead to a half frightened young savage in the stern. Waymouth finally permitted one of his men to go in the canoe, while he himself remained in his boat near the shore. Returning, the man reported two hundred and eighty-three natives armed with bows and arrows and accompanied by tame wolves, awaiting them to land. He saw no furs "and they seemed to want us to

go further up a little nook of a river." Assured of treachery on the part of the natives the boat returned to the ship. Captain Waymouth now determined to leave Pentecost Harbor, and sail up the river "further into the main." "We set up a crosse on the shore side of the rocks."

As the captain sat upon the deck of the Archangel, he told his companions what a fine thing it would be to capture some of these comely natives and carry them to England. "For," said he "they would awaken interest in this wild country and England be the first to establish colonies on it. It may be a pity to cloud our voyage by such an act of treachery, but we will treat them kindly and in time return them to their native home. And I feel it more and more a duty to secure at least a few good specimens of these savages. For have they not sent us from England at great expense, and what better than these people to serve as vouchers of our having discovered land? I cannot take the climate, nor the trees, nor the land, but the natives I must have. Taking them by force will seem cruel, but for the sake of future expeditions the act would be excusable."

As if to settle the question, the familiar dip of the paddle was heard as two canoes, containing three savages each, approached. Two of the natives gaily boarded the ship and passed below, but the others would not leave their canoes and with unusual caution resisted all inducements offered. Finally, a can of peas was handed down and they hastened to an adjacent island to eat them. After their repast one of the savages, young, comely and brisk, returned to the ship with the can, and joined his comrades below, thus becoming a victim of his own honesty. Those on shore not seeming inclined to again



come near, a ship's boat with eight men was despatched to the shore as if for traffic. One of the savages withdrew to the wood, but the other two advanced to meet the party and delightedly received another can of peas. Innocently they walked up the cliff to where their fires were and sat down together before the bright blaze. When the poor natives were about to enjoy their favorite dish of peas, they were suddenly seized by their white visitors and dragged down the cliff, the sailors grasping them by the long hair on the top of the head, this knot giving them a good hold. The savages struggled with all their might; it took all of the eight sailors to get them into the boat. When they reached the ship the sailors were again obliged to hoist them on board by the knot of the hair, thus literally by the "hair of the head" were they immured on ship board.

They were treated with great kindness by their captors and their shyness gradually wore away, when they found no bodily harm was intended. Their names were Nahanada, Dehamida, Assecomet, Tesquantum and Skidwarres.

Nahanada was a chieftain. He was tall, athletic, and handsome. His costume indicated his royalty, being a mantle of rich fur; on his head he wore a coronet of stiff hair, colored red, jewels in his ears, and bracelets of little white round bone on his arms.

This deed was committed almost in sight of their sovereign's capitol.

#### EXPLORATION OF THE KENNEBEC RIVER.

The Archangel, having now on board these five savages and two canoes with all their bows and arrows, spread her canvas

and sailed for the Kennebec by the outward passage. The historian of the voyage speaks of "Waymouth's search of sixty miles up this most excellent and benifeyciall river of Sagadahoc which he found capable of shippage for trafique of the greatest burden, a benefitt indeed, always to be accompted the richest treasure to any land."

Waymouth ran his ship as far up as Long Reach. Here he came to anchor and immediately proceeded to make explorations.

<sup>1</sup> "Wednesday, the twelfth of June, our captaine manned his light-horse-man with seventeen men, and ran up from the ship riding in the river, to the codde thereof, where we landed, leaving six to keep the light-horse-man till our return. Ten of us with our shot, and some armed, with a boy to carry powder and match, marched up into the country."

The ancient muskets had to be touched off with a match.

The word *codde* denotes a small creek like opening of inland water with a narrow entrance, where it is connected with the larger body. A little bay or creek of this kind about twelve rods wide is known to have existed, and indeed in part remains in the place now occupied by the city of Bath, having its narrow channel opening near the "town landing." It has been sufficiently deep, within the memory of persons now living, to admit a vessel much larger than the pinnace of Waymouth is supposed to have been.

Of this *codde* the narrator says: "It ran back in a south-westerly direction for fifty or sixty rods and then abruptly turned to the north, where it receives into its tide a small

<sup>1</sup>Rosier.

stream of fresh water from the two abrupt bordering ridges, between which it flowed, and from two little ponds at its head."

These ponds have in the long course of time filled up and become marshes.

"We passed up about four miles in the maine, and passed over three hills; and because the weather was parching hot, and our men in their armour not able to travel farre and return that night to the ship, we resolved not to passe any further, being all weary of so tedious and labourson a travill."

"In this march we passed over very good ground, pleasant and fertile, fit for pasture, for the space of some three miles, having but little wood, and that oke like stands left in our pastures in England, good and great, fit timber for any use."

"Some small birch, hazel and brake, which might in small time with few men be cleared and made good arable land; but as it now is will feed cattell of all kinds with fodder enough for summer and winter. The soil is blacke, bearing sundry herbs, grasse and strawberries bigger than ours in England. In many places are lowe Thicks like our copisses of small wood."

"And surely it did resemble a stately Parke, wherein appear some old trees of huge withered tops, and other flourishing with living green boughs. Upon the hills grow notable high timber trees, masts for ships of 400 tons; and at the bottome of every hill a little run of fresh water; but, the farthest and last we passed ranne with a great stream able to drive a mill."

This latter may have been the <sup>1</sup>"Whizgigg" stream on which have been mills of later years.

"To take possession of this land and goodly river for his

<sup>1</sup>Gigg is a stream emptying into a river.

Majestie, Captain Waymouth thought fit to make up to the head of the river, which he did well sixty miles in his barge, and as the stream tended westward into the mayne, and at that height yt began to narrow, so he there set up a crosss with his Madjestie's inscription thereon, observing all the ways that in noe place, either above the islands, or up in the mayne, or all alongst the river, there could be discerned any one token or signe, that any christian had been there before; and after this search, Captain Waymouth being well satisfied with knowledge of so commodious a seat, set sail for England."

While Waymouth was at anchor in the Kennebec, a canoe came up through the Sasanoa, sent by the tribe to which the captive Indians belonged. It contained a body of savages gorgeous in all the glory of new paint and fine mantles, with the white feathered skin of some fowl round about their heads. They approached with dignity and earnestly entreated that their people be released. They begged that at least one of the ship's company be left them as a "pawn" for the safety of their brethren. Sitting in their canoes and reproachfully pleading for their brethren, they made a picture that the company on board the Archangel cannot forget. But Captain Waymouth did not heed their entreaties.

#### DOWN THE KENNEBEC.

Before the gray dawn of the next morning had broken over the eastern headlands, the Archangel once more weighed anchor and made for the open sea.

Strachey. "Discovered a great river in these parts supposed to be Kennebecke."—Hubbard in His. N. E. "This seems to be Sagadahoc."—Thos. Prince in His. N. E.

“Friday, June 15, at 4 o'clock in the morning, with the tide, our two boats, and a little help of the wind, we rowed down to the head of the river and there came to anchor about 11 o'clock. The remainder of the day the captain made survey of the mouth of the river, taking soundings and observing the ledges and islands, in accordance with his instructions.”

“The next day being Whitsunday, we wayed anker, and with a briesse from the land, we sailed up to our watering place<sup>2</sup>, and there stopped, went on shore and filled all our empty caske with water. Our Captaine upon the Rocke in the middest of the harbour, observed the height, lattitude and variation exactly upon his instruments.”

“Sunday, the sixteenth of June, the wind being faire, and because we had set out of England upon a Sunday, made the Ilands upon a Sunday, and as we doubt not happily fell into our harbour upon a Sundeay, we weighed anker and quit the land upon a Sunday.”

Having had an uneventful passage on “Thursday the eighteenth day of July, about foure a clocke afternoon, we came into Dartmouth; which haven we made our last and first harbour in England.”

#### THE CAPTIVES IN ENGLAND.

The arrival of Weymouth with his captives created a sensation in England. Sir Ferdinando Gorges, a favorite of the King, took three of the Indians to his luxurious home, while Lord John Popham, Chief Justice of England, became the guardian of Nabanada and Skidwarres. The Indians acquired the Eng-

<sup>1</sup>Rosier.

<sup>2</sup>Pentecost Harbor.

lish language and were thus enabled to describe in detail the resources of their country, confirming all that Weymouth had seen and heard.

The information they imparted of the valuable advantages of this section of the country, led the way to its settlements, made Jamestown, Sagadahoc, Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay possible; brought to this land civilization, christianity and the principles of free government.

Nahanada was always the faithful friend of the English and his kindly deeds bear testimony to his good and noble character.

<sup>1</sup>“They were all of one nation, but of several parts and several families. This accident must be acknowledged the means under God of putting on foot and giving life to all our plantations, as by the ensuing discourse will manifestly appear.

“After I had those people sometime in my custody, I observed in them an inclination to follow the example of the better sort, and in all their carriages manifest shows of great civility, far from the rudeness of our common people. And the longer I conversed with them, the better hope they gave me of those parts where they did inhabit, as proper for our uses; especially when I found what goodly rivers, stately islands and safe harbors those parts abounded with, being the special marks I levelled at, as the only want our nation met with in all their navigations along the coast. And, having kept them, I made them able to set me down what great rivers ran up into the land, what men of note were seated on them, what power they were of, how allied, what enemies they had and the like.”

<sup>1</sup>Gorges.

## OTHER EXPLORERS SENT OUT.

Gorges and Popham resolved to ascertain more of the new world. <sup>1</sup>They despatched in August in 1606, a ship of fifty-five tons, Capt. Henry Chalons, for further exploration of this coast, but it was captured by hostile Spaniards. On board Chalons' ship were thirty-one men and Manida and Assecomet of Weymouth's captives. Not disheartened by this miscarriage, "it pleased the Lord Chief Justice to dispatch Captain Martin Pring, from Bristol, on a like voyage which extended to the Kennebec river, and on his return he made a favorable report."

Captain Thomas Hanham was sent on a similar voyage <sup>2</sup>"with auxiliaries and fresh supplies to join Chalons in beginning a colony within the Patent. He entered the mouth of the Kennebec and not finding Chalons, did nothing, but returned to England with encouraging accounts of the country, which invigorated the spirit of colonizing adventure."

## FORMATION OF A COLONIZING COMPANY.

Encouraged by the promising accounts of these men, Gorges obtained a grant April 10, 1606, from King James I, of territory comprising Virginia and all north of it to the river St. Lawrence and interested Lord Chief Justice John Popham, in his scheme.

<sup>1</sup>In the interim his Lordship failed not to interest many of the lords and others to be petitioners to his majesty for his royal authority, for setting two Plantations upon the coast of America, by the names of the First and Second Colony; the First to be undertaken by certain noblemen, knights, gentlemen

<sup>1</sup>Williamson.

<sup>2</sup>Prince.

and merchants in and about the city of London; the Second by certain knights, gentlemen and merchants in the Western parts.

“This being obtained, theirs of London made a very hopeful entrance into their design, sending away December 20, 1606, under the command of Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Summers and many other gentlemen of quality, a very great and hopeful Plantation to re-possess the southern parts of Virginia.

#### THE POPHAM EXPEDITION.

“By the same authority all things fully agreed upon between both the colonies, the Lord Chief Justice, his friends and associates of the West country, sent from Plymouth Captain Popham, as President for that employment, with Captain Rawley Gilbert and divers other gentlemen of note, in three sail of ships,<sup>1</sup> with one hundred land men for the seizing such a place as they were directed unto by the Council of that colony; who departes from the coast of England the one-and-thirtieth day of May, anno 1607 and arrived at their rendezvous, the 8th of August, following.”

George Popham, chief in command of this expedition, embarked in the Gift<sup>2</sup> a “fly-boat” of forty tons, and Raleigh Gilbert in the Mary and John, a ship of sixty tons.

Until within a few years the story of the voyage of the Popham ships was traditional. Eventually there was found in English archives a journal of the voyage written soon after it was made, by William Strachey. He gives the information that according to orders, the ships sailed from Plymouth in June

<sup>1</sup>Gorges erred in the number of ships; he probably included the pynnae.

<sup>2</sup>Gorges.



direct for the ancient Sagadahock river, taking what was then termed the westward course, following the track of Waymouth. With an uneventful passage, the *Mary* and *John* first made land near the island of Monhegan where they came to anchor on July 31. Here she was joined later by the *Gift*. From thence they followed Waymouth's course towards the main and made a harbor in the neighborhood of Pemaquid. "We found a cross set up, that which we supposed was set up by George Wayman."

On board the *Mary* and *John* was Skidwarres, one of the savages who had been carried away by Waymouth two years before. When the poor fellow found himself once more so near his home, he became much excited and wished to go at once to his native place near by on the mainland. Near midnight Gilbert manned his boat and guided by the eager savage, ere dawn they were at Pemaquid. They landed in the early light of the morning and approached a village of the natives. There was a sudden cry of alarm and the warriors ran with hastily snatched weapons to drive the white men back. At the head of his braves was the chief of the village, Nahanada, who was also one of those carried away by Waymouth, but returned the year before by Hanham. As soon as Nahanada and Skidwarres perceived each other, they ran together and embraced. Then the brethren and family of the restored savage came forward and joined in the hearty greetings. Two hours soon passed, when Gilbert's party returned to the vessel, taking Skidwarres with them.

"The next day was Sunday, and the chief of both the ships

<sup>1</sup>Folsom in Me. His. Coll. Vol. II, page 27. De Costa, Davies, Griffitt, Purchas.—'Gifte' Strachey, Burrage.

with the greater part of all the company, landed on the island where the cross stood, which they called St. George's Island, and heard a sermon delivered unto them by Mr. Seymour, their preacher, and returned aboard again." Here was preached the first sermon in New England. On Monday, captains Popham and Gilbert with fifty men each, in two boats, went again to Pemaquid. Skidwarres was with them but Nahanada and his braves appeared distrustful. The sight of so many armed men made them fear that the treachery of Weymouth was to be repeated. Suddenly the savages withdrew into the wood and Skidwarres with them, where from behind the trees, they menaced the white men with their arrows. It was the desire of the English to avoid bloodshed, so they retired to the boats and rowed across to the other side of the harbor, where they spent the night, and next evening returned to their shippes where they still made under St. Georges Island."

On the 12th "they weighed anchor and sett saile to goe for the river Sagadahoc." The next day, the 13th, they were off Seguin, "but they did not take it to be "Sutquin." "Soe the weather being very fair, they sought the islands further to the westward" and became becalmed. About midnight there arose a mighty storm upon them and they were in peril "by reason they were so near the shores and could not gett off, the wynd all the while south, and yt blew very stiffe, so as they were compelled to turn yt to and agayne. "Soe soon as the day gave light" on the 14th, they found themselves "hard aboard; the lee shore" and sought a place to "thrust in the shipp to save their lives." Their boat appears to have been in tow as "yt laye suncke at the stern two howers or more"

yet would not cut her off, lyving in hopes to save her ; so bearing up helm they stood in sight with the shoare, when anon they perceived two little islands, to which they made, and there they found—God be thanked—good anchoring, where they road until the storm broak, which was the next daie after. There they freed the boat, and had her ashore to repair her, being much torne and spoiled.”

“These islands are two leagues to the westward of Sachadehoc. Upon one of them they went on shoare and found four salvages and one woman. The islands are rockye and full of pine trees.”

On the 15th—“The storm ended and the wind came faire for them to goe for Sachadehoc, the river whether they were bound to and enjoyned to make their plantation in ; soe they weyed anchor and sett sayle, and came to the eastward and found the island of Sutguin, and anchored under yt, for the wind was of the shoare, by which they could not get into Sachadehoc ; yet Captain Popham with the fly boat gott in.”

On the 16th—“In the morning Captain Popham sent his shallop to help in Mary and John, which weyed anchor, and being calm, was soone towed in and anchored by the Gift’s side.”

On the 17th—“Captain Popham in his pyunace with thirty persons, and Captain Gilbert in his long boat with eighteen persons more, went early in the mornings from their shipp in the river Sachadehoc, to view the river and to search where they might find a fitt place for their plantation. They sayled up into the river neere fourteen leagues, and found yt to be a very gallant river, very deepe, and seldome lesse water than three fathoms when they found rest ; whereupon they proceeded no

farther, but in their return homwards they observed many goodly islands therein, and many branches of other small rivers falling into yt."

On the 18th—"They all went ashore, and there made a choice of a place for their plantation at the mouth or entry of the ryver on the west side, for the river bendeth yt self towards the nor-east and by east, being almost an island of a good bigness, being in a province called by the Indians Sabino, so called of a sagamo or chief commander under the grand Bassaba. As they came ashoare three canoes full of Indians came to them, but would not come neere, but rowed away up the river."

The 19th—"They all went ashore where they had made choise of their plantation and where they had a sermon delivered unto them by their preacher; and after the sermon the president's commission was read, with the laws to be observed and kept. Captain George Popham was nominated president; Captain Rawley Gilbert for Admiral; Captain Edward Harlow, Master of the Ordinance; Captain Robert Davies, Sergeant Major; Captain Ellis Best, Marshall; Master Seaman, Secretary; Captain James Davies to be Captain of the Fort; Master Gome Carew, Chief Searcher; Rev. Richard Seymour, Chaplain. These were sworn in as members of the Council, who, with some hundred more, were to stay in the country. And soe they turned back again to the ships."

Weight of authority locates the site of this famous spot near where is now Fort Popham, and if this be true the wise foresight of the men who choose this spot for their settlement, is plainly apparent. On three sides it was easily accessible by water and at the same time barriers of defence leaving

the inland side only to be prepared for protection, which ancient accounts state was done by "a mere stockade to repel Indian aggression mounted by semi-culverines of nine pounds, sakers of six pounds, twelve in all."

WORK ON THE SETTLEMENT.

On the 20th—"All went to shoare again, and there began to entrench and make a fort, and to build a storehouse, soe continued to the 27th."

<sup>1</sup>"Our president, Captain Popham, set the first spit of ground unto it, and after him all the rest followed, and labored hard in the trenches about it."

Friday the 21st—"All hands labored about the fort, some in the trench, some for faggots, and our ship carpenters about the building of a small pinnace or shallop."

Saturday, the 22d of August—"Captain Popham early in the morning, departed in his shallop to go for the river Pashipskoke."

"Sunday the 23d, our president, Captain Popham, returned unto us from the river of Pashipskoke," (Sheepscot.)

<sup>2</sup>On the 28th—"Whilst most of the hands labored hard about the fort, and the carpenters about the buylding of a small pinnace, the president overseeing and applying every one to his work, Captain Gilbert departed in the shallop upon a discovery to the westward." He sailed among the islands of Casco Bay and on the second night "arrived at the fort again."

"And from the first to the fourth of September nothing was

<sup>1</sup>Davies. <sup>2</sup>Strachey.

In using quotations from ancient writers their unique style of spelling is retained in this volume.

done but only for the furtherance buylding of the fort and storehouse to receive ashore their victuals."

VISIT OF THE NATIVES.

"About noone on the 5th there came into the entrance of the river of Sachadehoe and unto the fort, as our people were at their works, nine canoes with forty salvadges in them, men, women and children, and amongst them was Nahanada and Skidwarres. They came up into the fort, and the president gave them meat and drink and used them exceeding kindly. Two or three howers they remayned there and they parted. Skidwarres and others 'staying still'; "at night Captain Gilbert, James Davies and Ellis Best, went over the farthest side of the river where all the rest had withdrawn themselves and there remayned with them all the night; and early in the morning, the salvages departed in their canoes for the river of Pemaquid."

GILBERT'S EXPLORATIONS.

"Captain Gilbert, with twenty-two others departed on the 8th in the shallop for the river of Penobscot, taking with him divers sorts of merchandise to trade with the Bashaba." He failed to find that river and returned to the fort after an absence of two days."

"Captain Gilbert with nineteen others, departed in his shallop on the 23d, to goe for the head of the river Sachadehoe. They sayled all this day, and on the 24th the like, untill six of the clock in the afternoon, when they landed on the river's side where they found a champion land and very fertile, where they remayned all that night."

"In the morning of the 25th, they departed from thence and

sayled up the river and came to a flatt, low land, where is a great cataract or downfall of water, which runneth by both sides of this island, very shold and swift. In this island they found great store of grapes, both redd and white; good hopps, as also chiballs and garlike; they haled their boat with a strong rope through this downfall perforce, and went near a league further up, and here they lay all night; and in the first of the night there called certain salvages on the further side of the river unto them in broken English; they answered them againe and parled long with them, when towards morning they departed."

"In the morning of the 26th, "there came a canoe unto them, and in her a Sagamo and four salvages, some of those which spoke to them the night before. The Sagamo called his name Sebanoa, and told us how he was lord of the river Sachadahoc.

They entertayned him friendly and took him into their boat and presented with some trifling things, which he accepted."

During the same day there was much intercourse between Captain Gilbert and the natives partly friendly and partly in trade and more or less suspicion on both sides, ending in some demonstrations of hostility on the part of the Indians.

"Captain Gilbert finally made show as if he were still friends and entertained them kindly, and soe left them."

"On the 27th, they sett up a crosse and returned homeward, in the way seeking by the river of some note called Sasanoa" and on the 29th arrived at the fort.

#### SECOND VISIT OF THE NATIVES.

All were busy about the fort to the 3d of October, when on

the 4th, "There came two canoes to the fort, in which were Nahanada and his wife and Skidwarres, and the Bashaba's brother, and one other called Amenquin, a Sagamo; all whom the president feasted and entertained with all kindness, both that day and the next, which being Sundaye, the president carried them with him to the place of public prayers, which they were at both morning and evening, attending yt with great reverence and silence."

"On the 6th, the salvages departed all except Amenquin, the Sagamo, who would needs stayer amongst our people a longer tyme. Upon the departure of the others the president gave unto every one of them copper beads or knives, which contented them not a little, as also delivered a present to the Bashaba's brother, and another for his wife, giving him to understand that he would come unto his court on the river Penobscot and see him very shortly, bringing many such like of his country's commodities with him."

"These were stranger Indians, able men, very tall and strong and such as the like before had not been seen."

THE MARY AND JOHN DISPATCHED TO ENGLAND.

<sup>1</sup> "You maie please understand how, whilst this business was followed here, soone after their first arrival, they had despatched away Captaine Robert Davies in the Mary and John, to advertise of their safe arrival and foundation of their plantation within the river Sacadehoc, with letters to the Lord Chief Justice, ymportuninge a supply for the most necessary wants to the subsisting of a colony, to be sent unto them betymes the next year."

<sup>1</sup> Strachey.



“After Captaine Davies’ departure they fully finished the fort, trencht and fortified yt with twelve pieces of ordinance, and built fifty houses therein, besides a church and a storehouse; and the carpenters framed a pretty pynnace of about some thirty tons, which they called the Virginia; the chief shipwright being one Digby, of London.”

“Many discoveries likewise had been made, both to the mayne and unto the neighboring rivers, and the frontier nations, fully discovered by the dilligence of Captain Gilbert, had not the wynter proved soe extremely unseasonable and frosty; for yt being in the year 1607, when the extraordinary frost was felt in most parts of Europe, yt was here likewise as vehement, by which noe boat could stir upon any business.”

“During the latter portion of the winter the storehouse caught fire and all the general stock of provisions were burnt up together with the furs that had been bought of the natives and stored in the building, and for the remainder of the winter the colonists were obliged to subsist on fish and clams, game, and even dog meat.”

#### CHARACTER OF THE BUILDINGS.

It is a matter of interest to form an idea of the character of the structures of Fort St. George; denominating them as “rude huts” may not be in accordance with English thoroughness. Some proximate opinion of them may be gathered from the kind constructed by the cotemporaneous colony at Jamestown, which may have represented the English mode of establishing what was designed to be a permanent settlement. At Jamestown there was a triangular fort with half moon batteries covering

each corner ; two rows of houses of framed timber, some of two stories, three large storehouses, and all enclosed with strong impaling.

“This description seems to correspond as to the size of the Popham buildings in that the French on visiting the place some years after its evacuation by the English, speak of finding “walls.”

#### RETURN OF THE MARY AND JOHN.

“Howbeyt, as tyme and occasyon gave leave, there was nothing omitted which could add unto the benefit or knowledge of the planters, for which when Captain Davies arrived there in the year following with a ship laden full of victuals, arms, instruments and tools, albeyt he found Mr. George Popham, the president, and some other dead, yet he found all things in good forwardness, and many kinds of furs obtayned from the Indians by way of trade ; good store of sarsaparilla gathered, and the new pynnace all finished.”<sup>2</sup>

#### THE COLONY BREAKS UP AND RETURNS TO ENGLAND.

“But by reason that Captain Gilbert received letters that his brother was newly dead and a large portion of land fallen unto his share, which required his repair home, and noe mynes discovered nor hope thereof, being the mayne intended benefit expected to uphold the charge of the plantation, and the feare that all other wynters would prove like the first, the company by no means would stay any longer in the country, espeycally Captain Gilbert being to leave them, and Mr. Popham dead ; wherefore they ymbarqued in this new arrived ship and in the pynnace, the Virginia, and sett saile for England.”

<sup>1</sup> Strachey    <sup>2</sup> The first English ship constructed in North America.

<sup>1</sup>“They all returned to England in 1608, and the country esteemed as a cold, barren, mountainous, rocky desert.”

<sup>2</sup>“The whole colony breaks up and returns with Captain Gilbert this year (1608) to England.”

“And this was the end of that northern colony upon the river Sagadahoc.”

In this account of the sailing of these vessels for England no mention is made of the “Gift.” It has been asserted that the two ships returned to England for supplies late in 1607 but it is not reasonable to suppose that the colonists would be willing to remain in this distant and strange country, in an exposed and perilous situation with no water craft for reliance in a case of necessity that might occur before the Virginia could be completed. There is consequently value in the tradition that <sup>3</sup>“they carried their ship across the bay on the western side of the river and in a cove or eddy under Coxes Head, they fastened the cables to the trees, put out fenders to keep the ship from rubbing against the rocks, in which situation she lay until the month of May following, when the colonists took the ship and with the remains of George Popham proceeded to England.”

To bring to the colonists needed supplies for the next year the larger vessel was evidently enough.

#### ENGLAND'S TITLE TO NEW ENGLAND.

In 1612 Spain claimed this territory from England but the latter declared that “the possession of Florida belonged to England by the right of discovery and actual possession by the

<sup>1</sup> Capt. John Smith 1614.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. Thos. Prince, pastor of the Old South Boston, 1736.

<sup>3</sup> M. I. Hill,

two English colonies thither conducted, whereof the latter is yet there remaining," and by the same tenor could hold Virginia.

In 1624 France claimed the territory of New England and King James I, through Gorges, decided the title of England good, wholly on the ground of settlements on the Kennebec in and subsequent to 1607, and the title held good.

<sup>1</sup>"The French never had any possession on the coast west of the Kennebec. As to the settlement of Gosnold on Elizabeth Island, it was not a chartered colony, but undertaken on private account. They asserted no general claim, proved no title and was not renewed."

In its political action the English government always regarded the Popham colony the initial settlement of New England. After their departure, traders and fishermen came in and prosecuted their business on the Kennebec for thirteen years prior to the arrival of the Pilgrims at Plymouth.

#### CHARACTER OF THE COLONISTS.

Inaugurating their landing with the sacred rites of religion and their civil government in the interests of law and order, proves that the men comprising this expedition were worthy of the fame of having been the first to plant a colony on the shores of New England. And it is unjust to the eminent personages who with generous and enterprising impulses, put their money and reputation into the venture, to suppose that they would risk them in the hands of men destitute of all the better traits of humanity. A depraved class of men would

<sup>1</sup>Ballard.

hardly care to exile themselves on so inhospitable a shore, deprived of all the luxuries and even necessary comforts of life.

Gorges in his narrative of the expedition says "that among them were divers gentlemen of note."

Father Baird, a Frenchman, who came to the mouth of the river soon after the departure of the colonists writes that "The Indians said that the English had at first a good man at their head and his people treated the Indians well."

There was no reliably related instance of disorderly conduct while these colonists sojourned on the peninsula of Sabino.

"Concerning the character and the merits of the colonists of Sagadahoc there has been some warm discussion, though no established facts have been produced that reflect upon their reputation. The colonists were probably no better than the average men of their class; yet there is nothing to indicate that there were any among them who required disciplinary treatment. The Lord Chief Justice has been denounced for his severe conduct of the courts of justice, and for the sins of his youth; but impartial critics will allow that this is altogether aside from the question. So far as we actually know, the course pursued by the colonists was humane and pacific.

"One of their number was killed by the Tarratines of the east, while the loss of their provisions induced the fear of a mutiny; yet the temptation to indulge in disorder was resisted. Industry and order seem to have prevailed and due respect was shown for the services of religion, the bearing of the English worship led by Chaplain Seymour being such as to recommend

<sup>1</sup> De Costa.

to the simple savage a faith which he could not comprehend. When, however, it was found that the main purpose for which the colony was undertaken could not be achieved, they departed to employ their activities in another sphere."

GORGES AND THE POPHAMS.

The early settlements of Sagadahoc that led to the later permanent occupation of the soil by the English, were due to the unflinching persistency and devotion of Gorges and the Popham families, who lavished immense sums of money and sent many of their own kindred to these shores. But as is frequently the case, they and their descendants who endeavored to gain possession of this region, never received any benefit from the rich resources of this bounteous land.

Sir Ferdinando Gorges was the father of American colonization. It was his great foresight, influence and efforts that brought other far seeing men of rank and means in England to join him in the great enterprise of settling a new world, and increasing England's future greatness. He inaugurated immigration to this great country that has proved an asylum for the poor and persecuted of all other nations of the broad world.

The commendable undertakings of Gorges was ably seconded by Lord Popham with his ample means, until his untimely death in 1607.

"The Popham colony was undertaken for the advancement of religion, the enlargement of the bounds of our nation, the increase of trade and the employment of many thousands of all sorts of people."

<sup>1</sup>Gorges.

In the Royal charter under which this colony was undertaken it is stipulated :

“That the said presidents, councils and the ministers should provide that the word and service of God be preached and used, not only in the said colonies, but also as much as might be, among them, according to the rites and doctrines of the Church of England.”

<sup>1</sup>“Richard Seymour was the first preacher of the gospel in the English tongue within the borders of New England.”

Popham died February 5, 1608, and his last words were, “I die content, for my name will always be associated with the first planting of the English race in the new world. My remains will not be neglected away from the homes of my fathers and my kindred.”

And yet it is an undetermined question where the remains of this notable man repose.

However sincere and earnest the proprietors of this colony may have been in endeavoring to found the principles of religion and morality in this new country, the desirable end could not be reached on sentiment alone. All such enterprises necessitate material support. Although amply supplied at the beginning from the mother country, the colonists must in time become self supporting. The sandy shores on which they had landed were not adapted to agriculture, nor had the fishing industry nor the fur trade become developed. They had come with expectations of other resources, which proved disappointing.

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bangs.

Upon the arrival in England of the returned colonists they represented as a reason of their abandonment of the "undertaking" that the climate was too severe and the country too barren to be inhabited by any of the European race. And it must be conceded that their experience justified this conclusion.

#### INAUGURATING SHIP BUILDING IN AMERICA.

Whatever the Sagadahoc colony may have failed to accomplish, there still remains the fact, that at least one important result was achieved. In those rude wilds with scant appliances for work, it was no small undertaking to attempt the construction of a vessel. Before leaving England the building of the Virginia must have been planned, and tools and carpenters sent over. No sooner had the colonists landed than this work was commenced, and all through the cold and stormy winter the building of the craft went on, notwithstanding the loss by fire of provisions and possibly of material for its construction. In the spring she was completed, launched and fitted for sea, the proud result of industry, skill and perseverance. Departing directly for England, this little "ship," crossing a wide ocean, must have created no small interest as she triumphantly sailed into the harbor of old Plymouth, a trophy of the enterprise of the New World.

It took the Plymouth colony ten years after it was founded and that of Massachusetts Bay three years, to place on the waters a sea-going vessel of any sort.

If there were no other results of utility appertaining to the sojourn of Sagadahoc colony on the shores of America, the successful building of their vessel may be justly considered a sufficiently glorious consummation.



They thus founded the maritime business on this great continent, which has been a marked factor in its development and power.

DISCREPANCIES IN THE ACCOUNTS OF THE POPHAM COLONY.

It may not perhaps be wondered at that in the course of nearly three centuries, many discrepancies have crept into the traditional and written history of the Sagadahoc Colony. There is a statement often repeated, that when the *Mary* and *John* sailed for England in December, 1607, all but <sup>1</sup>forty-five of the men returned home. As will be seen by the letter of the President<sup>2</sup> to the King sent by this vessel, no mention is made of this important occurrence, nor did Strachey so state in his journal of the voyage and settlement of the colony.

Nearly, if not quite all of the accounts of the proceedings of the colonists in preparing their settlement, record that <sup>2</sup>fifty houses were built subsequent to the departure of *Davies*, which would hardly be necessary for the occupancy of forty-five men. Captains *Popham* and *Gilbert* having the responsibility of the success of the undertaking, could not permit more than half their number to depart at that early day without any adequate reason for so doing.

The tradition which some writers of history have adopted, that the Indians captured and destroyed the Fort, should hardly be considered probable, when, at that time, the natives possessed no fire arms, while the colonists not only had a supply, but had twelve pieces of cannon mounted for ready defence. The most reliable accounts by those cotemporary with this event simply state that the store house was burned.

<sup>1</sup>Purchas.    <sup>2</sup>The letter is on the last page of this Part.

There is an often told story of the "drag-rope and cannon," which is equally absurd. Ambrose Hunniwell is said to have resorted to it as a means of defence against hostile Indians at a later day.

These stories have been traced by an ancient writer to "sailor's yarns." There is no well founded evidence that the colonists had any serious difficulties whatever with the Indians at their residence at Fort St. George.

Another account has asserted that two ships were loaded in England with supplies for the colonists at Sagadahoc, which would have been a superabundance for forty-five men, but the better evidence goes to prove that the *Mary* and *John* only brought these supplies.

"But the ship's arriving there found that old Captaine Popham was dead, who was the only man, indeed, that died there that winter." Others have asserted that a number of others died.

Another account sends the "Gift" on a fishing cruise with a portion of the re-embarking colonists, while still another sends this vessel with some of the colonists on a voyage to Virginia; <sup>2</sup>others hold that it is certain that forty-five of the departing colonists did not reach England at all, but disembarked upon Pemaquid or at some point on that section of the coast. If any or a part of these diverse disposing of the broken up colony be true, there must have been but few to have reached England in the final return of the *Mary* and *John*, together with the *Virginia*, and probably the *Gift*.

<sup>1</sup>"Gorges Brief Relation."

<sup>2</sup>R. K. Sewall.

## THE SITE OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

The English colonists having abandoned Sagadahoc, it is recorded that in the autumn of 1611, the French landed at the mouth of the river. "No resident was found, the paths leading to the fort being untrodden." Baird says, "that in company with Biencourt, he reached the Kennebec from the east October 28," coming through the Sasanoa passage.

Entering the harbor, where in 1607 Popham had moored the "Gift" and "Mary and John," the French were greatly excited and hastened at once to view the stronghold built by the English. "At first they praised and extolled the enterprise of the English and to enumerate the advantages of the place." Soon however, he testifies, "they saw the situation with a military eye, and discovered that the ground was badly chosen, as another fort properly placed, would have cut them off from both the river and the sea."

<sup>1</sup>"Such is the only known description of the place written at that period. They were evidently impressed by the magnitude of the work. It indicated enterprise and proved that the builders wrought with regard to something more than a transient occupation of the dwellings."

<sup>2</sup>"The writer of this note has just returned from a visit to that locality. Standing upon high ground near the centre of it, he saw at once that the place "being almost an island of a good bigness" was a very accurate description. And from a very thorough examination of this peninsula, it seemed as if the pre-

<sup>1</sup> De Costa in Maine His. Col. Vol. XVIII.

<sup>2</sup> Ballard.

cise situation of the fort built by those early colonists might almost be settled."

"Conspicuous to all who enter or leave the mouth of the Kennebec, is a two story dwelling house built by Major Shaw, standing a few rods from the sea coast and not far distant from the river just named. Near this house is a crescent shaped pond of fresh water, covering about five acres of ground. The land rises some forty feet on the north of this pond and then descends by an easy slope to the waters of Atkins Bay, giving sufficient space for the erection of a fort containing "fifty houses, besides a church and a storehouse."

"A large supply of fresh water would evidently be needed for such an establishment as this. At the present day the water in the wells on the peninsula is more or less brackish, which, in all probability, has always been the case. Such a pond then, would be of great value to a fortress. This fact and the adaptation of the land to such a building seems to be decisive as to the locality of the fort."

Much stress has been laid by some historians on the remains of an ancient fortification with covered way that had been seen by "old inhabitants." There is evidence more or less reliable, that a fort had been in existence at a remote period on Horse Ketch Point, erected probably by parties who succeeded the Popham colony. After the departure of the French an English war force located on the west side of the mouth of the river, where they fortified and held possession until the Plymouth Company established fortified trading posts on its grant on the Kennebec, one of which was at Sagadahoc.

<sup>1</sup>“On the west side of the river is the remains of a fort made of stone and earth ; there are also eight old walls now to be seen and the ruins of several houses. Whether these buildings were erected by the English or the French, is uncertain ; but the probability is that the former were erectors of the works.”

“The English settlements continued until the year 1675 up, to which time there was perfect peace between the white people and the savages.”

“The Plymouth Company in 1629, took possession at the mouth of the river and erected a fort on the west bank of the same, and on the margin of the sea in the year 1634. The remains of the fort and of the houses erected there, and the number of wells which were sunk for the use of the plantation remain there now.”

In a manuscript written in 1660 by Samuel Maverick descriptive of New England, it is said: “Three leagues distant from Damerelles Cove is Sagadahocke at the mouth of Kenebeth River on which place the Lord Popham’s people settled about fiftie years since, but soon after deserted it and returned for England ; I found Rootes and Garden hearbs and some old walles there when I went first over, which shewed it to be the place where they had been. This is a great and spreading river and runs very neer into Canada. One Captaine Young and three men with him in the yeare 1636, went up the river upon discovery. On this river and on the islands lying on the mouth of it, are many families scatteringly settled. Some attend wholly to trade with the Indians, others planting and raising

<sup>1</sup> Sullivan.

a stock of cattle, and some at the mouth of the river keep fishing stations."

GORGES DOES NOT RELINQUISH THE ENTERPRISE.

The withdrawal of the Popham colony was not fatal to the settlement of the Sagadahoc nor adjacent coast, as at no great length of time was the region destitute of inhabitants or of vessels visiting its waters.

After the return of the colony to England Gorges said ; "All my associates gave up to these discouragements and finding 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, appointing them to leave the ship and ship's company for to follow their business in the usual place, for I knew they would not be drawn to seek by any means. 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, and not without danger, for that the war between the tribes had consumed the Bashaba and the most of the great Sagamores, with such men of action as followed them and those that remained were sore afflicted with the plague, so that the country was in a manner left void of inhabitants."

After the death of Sir John Popham, his son Sir Francis continued his interest in the Sagadahoc country. "He sent expeditions here several years after that of the first famous

Popham colony, in hopes of better fortune, but found it fruitless and was necessitated at last to sit down with the loss he had already undergone." The son of Sir F. Gorges also "sent into these waters of Sagadahoc for several years a ship to keep up communication with the country, to encourage the fisheries and to trade in fish and furs."

## CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH'S VOYAGE.

"Captain John Smith with a ship and a barge and forty-five men, sailed from London, March 3, 1614, to take and hold possession of the Sagadahoc, and arrived in the river the last of April."

Upon his return to England in the July following he reported that "I was to have staid there with only sixteen men; built seven boats on the river and explored the river and coast thoroughly, and caught fish and bought furs;" and "we got for trifles, 11,000 beaver, 100 martins and as many otters, took and cured 40,000 dry fish and 7,000 cod fish, corned or in pickle; the amount of net gain to those interested was about £1,500 sterling" or about seven thousand and five hundred dollars.

Smith surveyed the coast in his seven boats from Cape Cod to the Penobscot, made a map of the same which was published in 1616, but a copy of it has never of latter years been found; he was made an Admiral and had the honor of giving the title of New England to the country he visited.

"A party of Englishmen came from England and settled at the Kennebec in 1619 and remained there permanently."

<sup>1</sup> Gorges.

<sup>2</sup> Williamson.

## THE FIRST STATE PAPER WRITTEN IN AMERICA.

*George Popham to King James I.*

13 DECEMBER, 1607.

At the feet of his Most Serene King humbly prostrates himself George Popham, President of the Second Colony of Virginia. If it may please the patience of your divine Majesty to receive a few things from your most observant and devoted, though unworthy servant, I trust it will derogate nothing from the lustre of your Highness, since they seem to redound to the Glory of God, the greatness of your Majesty, and the utility of Great Britain. I have thought it therefore very just, that it should be made known to your Majesty, that among the Virginians and Moassons, there is none in the world more admired than King James, Sovereign Lord of Great Britain, on account of his admirable justice and incredible constancy, which gives no small pleasure to the natives of these regions, who say moreover, that James, under whose rule and reign they would gladly fight. Tahanida, one of the natives, who was in Great Britain, here proclaimed to them your praises and virtues. What and how much I may avail in transacting these affairs and in confirming their minds, let those judge who are well versed in these matters at home, while I wittingly avow that all my endeavors are as nothing when considered in comparison with my duty towards my Prince. My well considered opinion is, that in these regions the glory of God may be easily evidenced, the empire of your Majesty enlarged, and the welfare of Great Britain speedily augmented. So far as relates to commerce, there are in these parts shagbarks, nutmegs and cinnamon, besides pine wood and Brazilian cochineal and ambergris, with many other products of great value, and these in the greatest abundance.

Besides, they positively assure me that there is a sea in the opposite or western part of this Province, distant not more than seven days' journey from our fort of St. George in Sagadahoc; a sea, large, wide and deep, the boundaries of which they are wholly ignorant of. This cannot be any other than the Southern Ocean, reaching to the regions of China, which unquestionably cannot be far from these regions. If, therefore, it may please you to keep open your divine eyes on this matter of my report, I doubt not but your Majesty will perform a work most pleasing to God, most honorable to your greatness, and most conducive to the weal of your kingdom, which with ardent prayers I most vehemently desire. And may God Almighty grant that the majesty of my sovereign Lord King James may remain glorious for ages to come.

At the Fort of St. George, in Sagadahoc of Virginia, 13 December, 1607.

In all things your Majesty's devoted servant.

GEORGE POPHAM.



## WAYMOUTH—THE KENNEBEC—THE ST. GEORGES.

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The St. Georges has never been called a "great" or a "noble" river; its most navigable part is but an arm of the sea. When Waymouth left his ship in Pentecost Harbor to make explorations in his shallop, his Relator states that he took a north-west course which would be in the direction towards the Kennebec; to go up the St. Georges would be going north-easterly. It is not on the record of any of the exploring voyages to this coast either before or after Waymouth, that the St. Georges River was given any attention whatever, while nearly, if not quite all these ships came into the Kennebec. In making early settlements, the St. Georges does not appear to have attracted settlers, while Pemaquid and even the Sheepscot plantation were peopled in advance of it, and those places were in this respect, many years behind the Kennebec.

It may be considered a significant fact that in the accounts of the voyage of Gosnold, no mention was made of his having entered the St. Georges, or anchored in St. Georges Harbor, and the same is true of the voyages of De Montz and Champlain, of Challons, Biencourt, Pring and Hauham, all of whom came to the Kennebec, and Champlain is on record as inferring that Waymouth had been into the Kennebec.

If Waymouth made a thorough survey of the entrance to the St. Georges before his ship left Pentecost Harbor, and if he went up that river it is hardly possible that on his return he would have made a second survey of its mouth. Consequently, it is more than probable that it was the mouth of the Kennebec which he surveyed on leaving it.

<sup>1</sup> Rosier, the historian of Waymouth's voyage, states: "I was animated to publish this briefe Relation because some foreign nations, being fully assured of the fruitfulness of the COUNTRY, have hoped hereby to gain some knowledge of the place. This is the cause that I have written neither of the latitude or variation most exactly observed by our captain." Naming other information he adds: "I have likewise purposely omitted being reserved to be made known for the benefit of those who shall goe in the next voyage."

It is thus evident that if Rosier's Relation be a correct description of the St.

<sup>1</sup> Burrage's Waymouth.

Georges and its adjacent coast, it is exactly what he intended in order to mislead navigators of other nations. With this object in view his "directly with the mountains" in Waymouth's track, must be alike illusory. Bancroft says: "The Indian who came back with Popham seems to have been at home in the region of the Kennebec, which was probably visited by his Captors." The Popham Colony was the direct result of the discovery of this "great" river by Waymouth, and the Popham ships sailed directly to and landed their colony at its mouth. Strachey, who was cotemporaneous with Waymouth and wrote with Rosier's Relation before him, makes the explicit statement that the "Archangel sailed up the great and benefycial river of Sagadahoc" and the weight of circumstantial evidence tends to show that the Eldorado of Waymouth was the Kennebec.

Among other eminent historians who have expressed opinions that the great river Waymouth discovered was the Kennebec, are McKeen, Dike, Sewall, Palfrey, De Costa, Ballard, Hubbard.

#### CHIEF PROMOTERS OF THE SAGADAHOC COLONY.

SIR FERDINANDO GORGES is deserving of the title of Father of American civilization. He was born in the year 1573, in the county of Somerset, in England. Before he was thirty years old he had won great honor in the war with Spain, and the King, to reward his services, made him governor of the fortified town of Plymouth in the south-western part of England.

A pioneer by nature, with broad and liberal views, he was the pattern of a magnificent man. It was he who conceived the idea of attempting the colonizing of North America. His influence at home was powerful in obtaining a grant from James First, that comprised the vast territory of South and North Virginia. He was equally potent in interesting Sir John Popham to place his money and his exertions in furtherance of his great and hazardous scheme of planting a colony on the Sagadahoc, and inducing some of the best men of England to join in the enterprise. The indomitable nature of the man was shown in his perseverance in further attempts after partial failure of the first adventure, when his coadjutors shrank from further effort.

At a later day Gorges possessed a grant that extended from the Kennebec to the Piscataqua river and 60 miles inland. This was during the reign of James the First, and when Charles the First succeeded to the throne he abrogated all prior crown grants which included that of Gorges. But the King, with whom he was a favorite, bestowed upon him a new charter with extraordinary privileges, making him Lord Proprietor of his province of Maine, and he designed to come

over and assume supreme control of his dominion. But before he was enabled to take his departure from England, his Royal friend needed his strong arm to wield a sword in defence of the crown. At such a call his loyalty and honor kept him to the side of his King until the royal cause went down, when he was imprisoned and his estates confiscated both in England and America. He died soon after his release from prison in 1647, at the age of 74 years.

SIR JOHN POPHAM gave his great influence and wealth to the undertaking of the Popham colony. He was one of the most upright and able judges that ever sat upon the English bench. He was a native of Huntwith, in the County of Somersetshire, and was 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, 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 a 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 educated here. It was standing in 1813, and the charity applied. Sir John endowed it with an estate in land, which is now vested in the governors.

In the south chapel of the 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 palisado of wood and iron. On the table of the monument are effigies of Sir John Popham and his lady. He is dressed in his judge's robe, chain and small square cap. On the west side of this canopy is the following inscription: "Sir John Popham, Lord Chief Justice of England, and privy counsel to Queen Elizabeth, and after to King James; died the tenth of June, 1607, aged seventy-six, and is here interred."

#### COMPLETION OF THE FIRST ERA.

In the preceding pages of this history is the record of the conspicuous events that mark the first occupation of ancient Sagadahoc by the English race. This took place more than a decade in advance of the colonization of Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay or any other locality on the shores of New England. This primary

occupation is shown to have been a basis on which was founded the right of England to the territory of the new world by virtue of actual possession.

It is likewise evident that in addition to this distinguishing feature in the earliest settlements upon the Lower Kennebec, the proceedings of the Popham colony upon its first landing, inaugurated principles that became fundamental in society and government in this country. The first act of these colonists was to recognize the importance of entering upon their untried career by joining in the services of the christian religion. For their civil government they adopted the liberal principles that have lived in American political institutions to the present day: something like a town meeting was held, laws promulgated and the appointment of municipal officers sanctioned.

It is also a significant incident in the operations of this colony, that, upon locating the place of its settlement, preparations for building a sea-going vessel were immediately made and the work eventually carried on to her successful launching upon the waters of Atkins Bay.

This was an auspicious event for the Kennebec. From this small beginning this river and the largest city upon it, became the greatest shipbuilding port in the world in the construction of wood ships, is holding that position to the present day, and now building government steel war vessels.

Notwithstanding the brief stay of this colony on these shores, it led the way to more permanent settlement by people immediately sent over by Gorges and other Englishmen, who took an interest in American colonization.

In the progress of years and the better recognition of irrefutable facts, the conspicuous events connected with the early settlement of the Lower Kennebec will be accorded their merited place in the future histories of New England.

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## ERRATA.

On page 6—1805 should be 1605. 22—Quotation in first paragraph is from Strachey. 32—Third line from bottom, choose should be chose. 42—Sixth line from bottom, was should be were.

## NOTE.

Part II will contain accounts of the earlier permanent settlements on the Lower Kennebec; of the important fishing stations, an industry of which the first John Parker was the pioneer; of the thrilling scenes through which the first settlers of Arrowsic passed; of the Indian massacres, battles, and devastation of all the villages on the river; of its re-settlement and final success in maintaining its ground against savages; and also biographies of the distinguished men of that period.

All of this adventurous history will be of great interest to the general reader as well as to the historian.

The appendix of business notices to each number is so placed as to be readily detached when holders of these parts desire to have them bound in book form.


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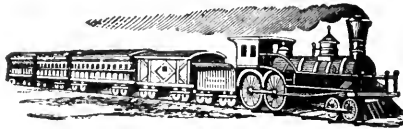
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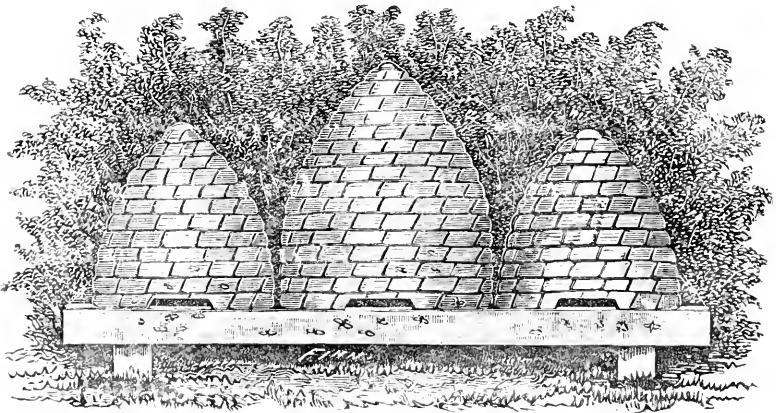
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## The Kennebec Steam Laundry.

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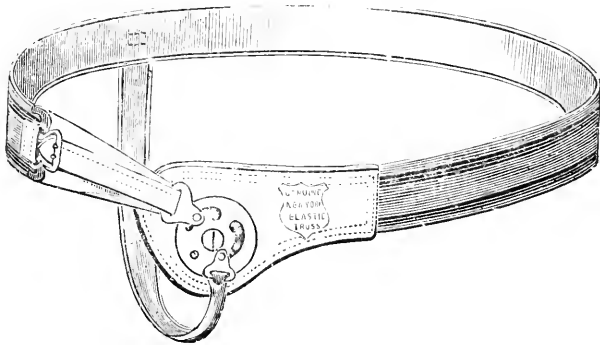
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C. T. HOOPER & SON,

—DEALERS IN—

PAPER HANGINGS,

Crockery, China and Glass Ware.

LAMPS, WINDOW SHADES, ROOM MOULDINGS, ETC.

BATH, MAINE.

—•••—  
 N. B. Remember Our Prices are the Lowest.

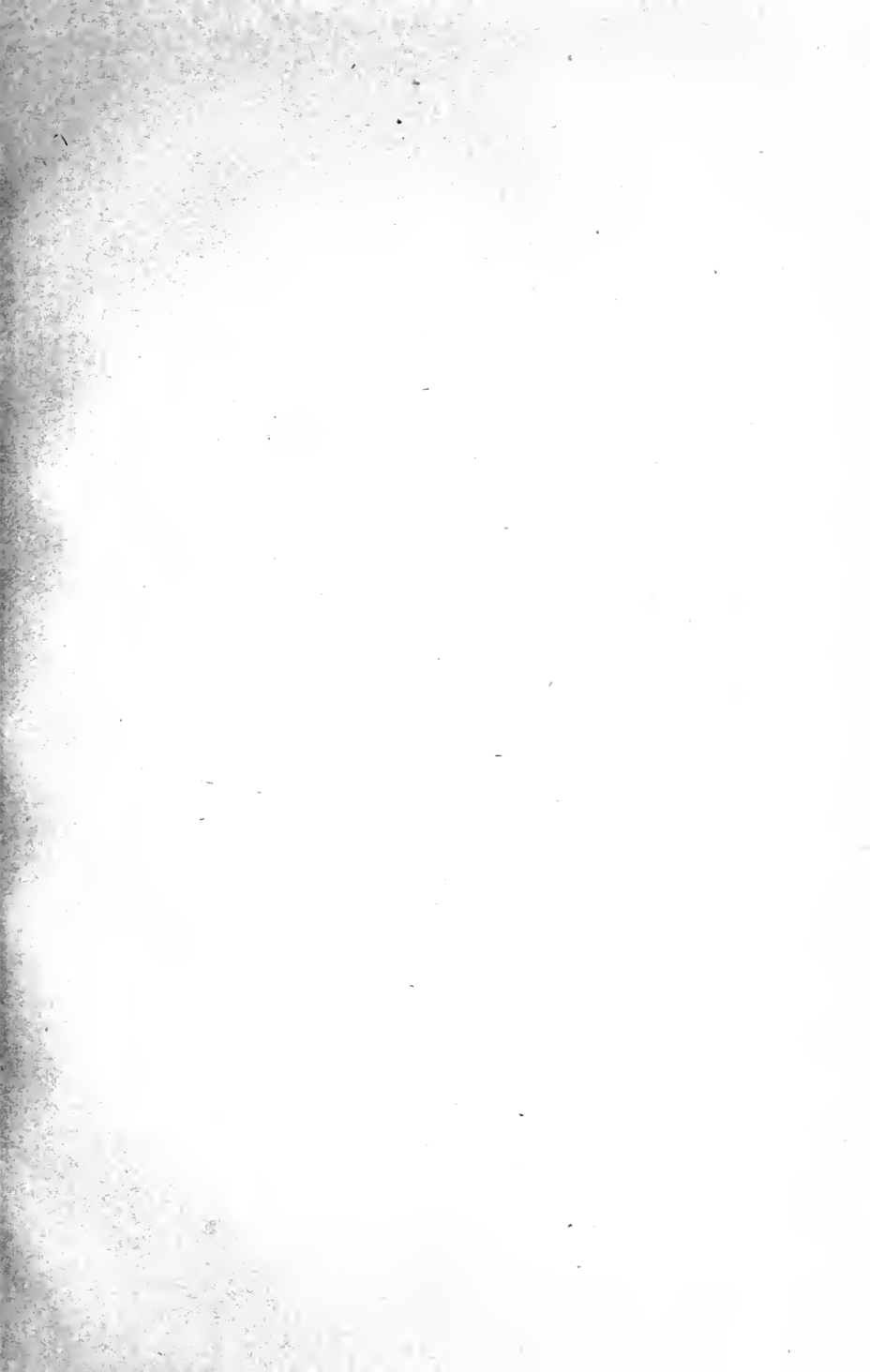
THE NEW  
MARBLE AND GRANITE  
WORKS.

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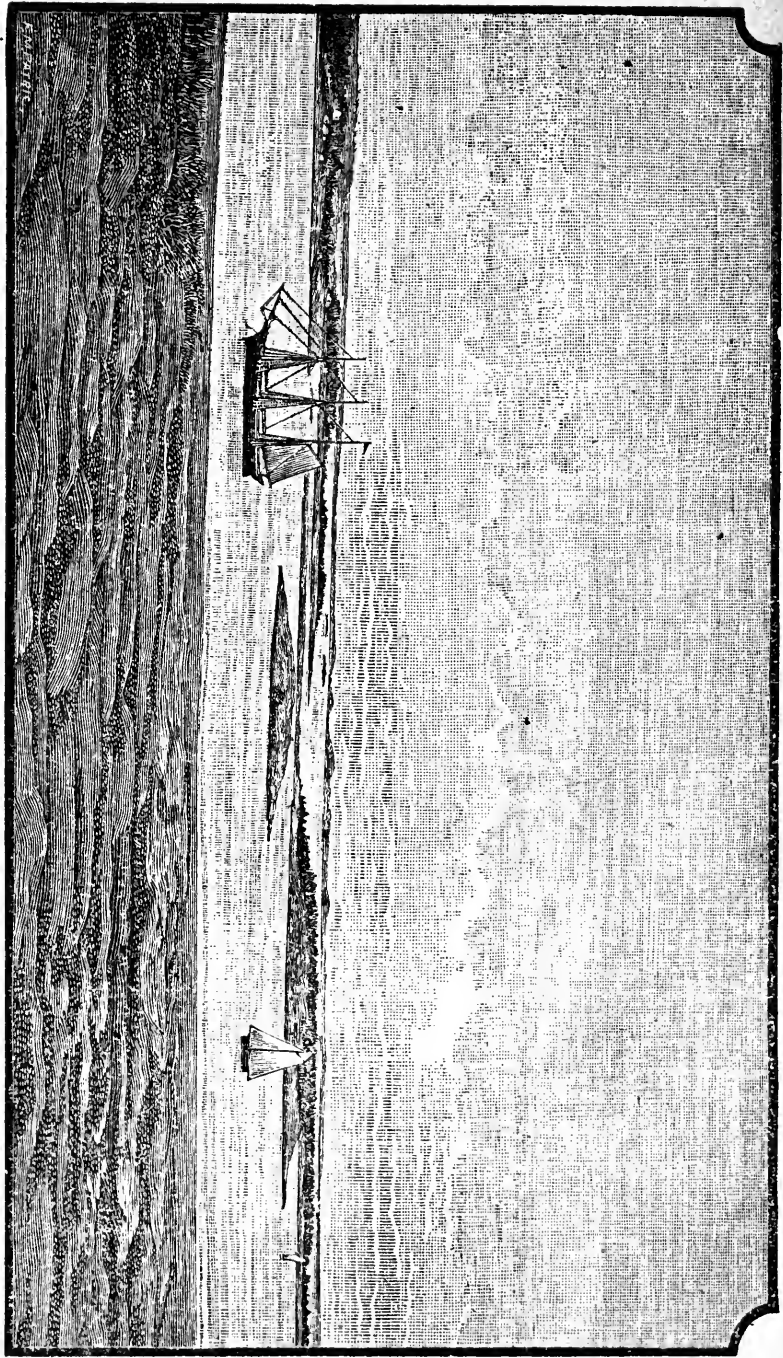
Bath has now an establishment of this kind, that by the superior work it turns out, makes it no longer necessary for the people of this city to go elsewhere for Monuments, Head Stones and all kinds of Memorial Work, executed from the finest marble and granites produced in this country, and the best imported.

It was at this establishment that the magnificent monument of Mr. B. W. Morse was designed and chiseled, and now the most conspicuous and admired adornment of the beautiful Oak Grove Cemetery.

Mr. William Liberty, the proprietor of these works, which are on North Street, near the Cemetery, gives his personal attention to the business, in conducting which his taste and skill is unquestionable, while his prices for first class work are reasonable.



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