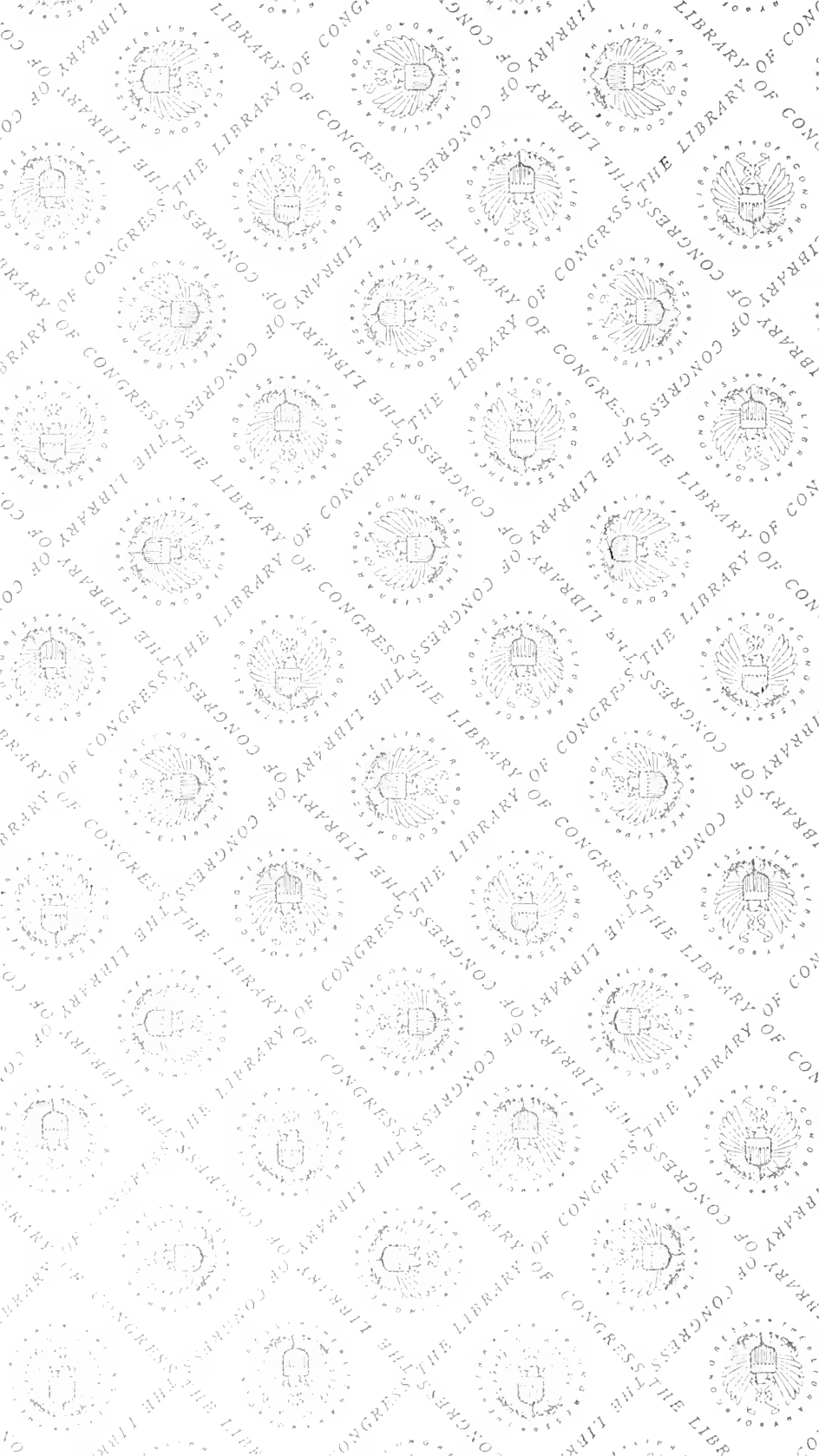
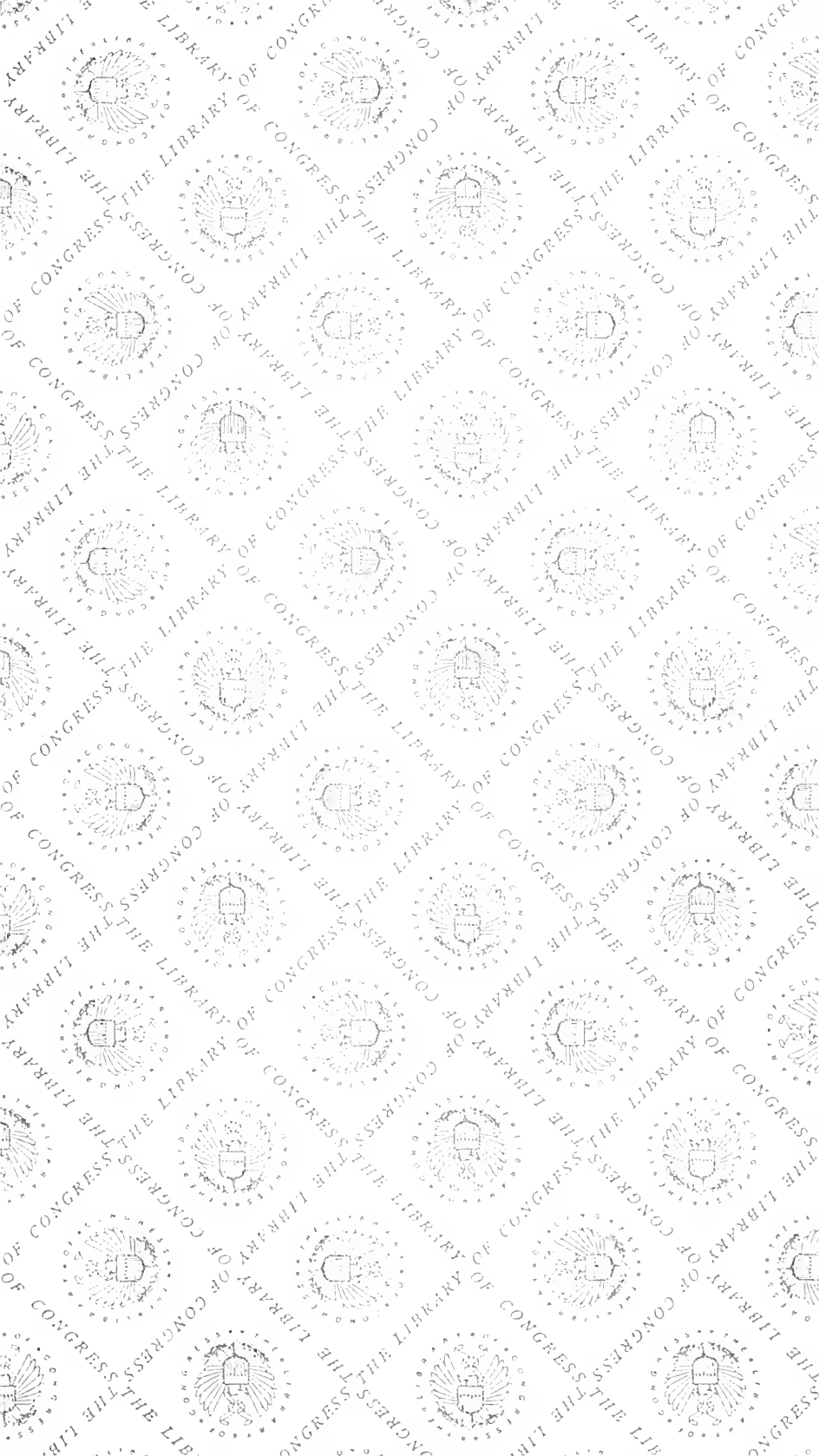


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CHRONICLES

OF THE TOWN OF

EASTHAMPTON,

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK,

NEW YORK.

BY DAVID GARDINER.

NEW YORK:

1871

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P R E F A C E .

THE CHRONICLES OF EASTHAMPTON were written, and originally published in the "*Corrector*" newspaper, about the year 1840. The narrative extends from the first settlement to the end of the American Revolution: a period in which the town was of most relative importance, and during which occurred the most interesting events of its history. Some branches of the subject, however, in themselves finite, have been treated in continuation or to their conclusion at a much later day. The writer has derived his materials from these sources:

I. The Town and Church Records; private letters and papers; and such traditions as have been thought worthy of belief.

II. LION GARDINER'S "Relations of the Pequot War;" SAMPSON OCCUM'S "Letter on the Religious Customs of the Montauketts;" and other papers published in the Historical Collections.

III. The various writers treating generally of the Colonial and Provincial history of New England and New York, and particularly of the history of Long Island, to whom access could be obtained.

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CHRONICLES OF EASTHAMPTON.

CHAPTER I.

“Thou little spot, where light first on me shone,
Where my first pang, my earliest joy, I knew;
What, tho’ remote, unnoticed and unknown,
Yet shall my heart to thee be ever true.”

OBERON, *Book IV.*

IMMEDIATELY previous to the year 1639, the present town of Easthampton was principally owned and inhabited by a tribe of Indians, called, as the first white inhabitants wrote the Indian pronunciation, *Montauketts*. Than these, no earlier or other people are known to have been its possessors. Among themselves, no tradition or monument remained founded upon any certain fact of any ancestral beginning. Like the historical origin (except what is derived from sacred writ,) of the other nations of the globe, the account of their primitive ancestors were altogether fabulous; and the story of the Montauketts differed nothing from the general notions which prevailed throughout the northern and eastern tribes. In their religion, they were polytheists and idolators. Their government was a monarchical despotism. In their person, and this is most especially true of the Montaukett tribe, they were tall, of proud and lofty movement, of active bodies, and as straight as the arrow. They were warlike in their habits, and spent most of their time in the study of military policy. Their chiefs and their braves were distinguished above those of the other tribes of the island, for prowess in the field, for a recklessness of life in battle, and for the boid and daring onset with which, under their war scream, they rushed upon their enemy.

All of the native tribes of the island, as far as the *Canasies'* territory, were at this time under the subjugation of, and tributary, in a greater or less degree, to the elder brother of the Montaukett sachem, who resided on Shelter Island, as sachem

over the *Manhasset* tribe, and as great sachem of all Long Island. In 1651, the Montaukett sachem succeeded his brother, then deceased, as great sachem of Long Island, and had under him from ten to fifteen sachems, with whom his word was law, and over whom he exercised despotic sway. Without his assent, no sales of their lands were held good; the controversies among themselves relative to their several jurisdictions, were subject to his decision; and their foreign broils were hushed or promoted, by the good or evil they might bring upon his own immediate tribe, or that of any one of his brothers. In his council he had several able ministers, among whom the greatest were Pequatone, and Poniute, sometimes called Mousup, who had distinguished themselves above all others, by their sagacity, their subtlety, and their bravery in war. The name of the Montaukett sachem was Wyandanch, and he resided with his tribe on Montaukett, between the ponds. His family, then, consisted of his wife, a son named Weoncom-bone, and a daughter. The elder brother of Wyandanch was called Poggatacut, and he had exercised a great and controlling influence over the mind and conduct of the Montaukett sachem. The Indians often had two sachems at one time, the elder for counsel, and the younger for action, being of one family, and succeeding by inheritance. Wyandanch seldom engaged in any war project, or important measure, without first consulting with and receiving the approbation of his brother, the sachem Poggatacut.

The main body of the Indians within the present boundaries of Easthampton, were settled on Montauk; and from the extent and number of the burial grounds must have been, at an early day, very numerous. They occupied chiefly the north shore, and the grounds around the ponds. A comparatively small number resided west of Montauk, about the bays and harbors, subject to the Shinecock sachem, who was also a brother of Wyandanch. The shores of Three Mile Harbor, the grounds about Accaboneck, and the shores of Gardiner's Bay, are in many places whitened with the shells of clams, where there had been probably temporary residences of Indians, for they are in too small a quantity to have been the collection of numerous families, or of any considerable number of persons for any length of time. The waters near these places abound in shell fish, and they are easily obtained. No burial grounds of any considerable extent are found west of Montaukett. The largest this side of Neapeag (a name which signifies *water land*), is at the southern extremity of the village of Easthampton, on the present parsonage grounds. But at this day, the small mounds which designated the ground where many a brave has his resting place, have been leveled

by the plough, and even traditionary knowledge of the spot is now very limited.

While Wyandanch held in subjection the other chief tribes of the island, he himself was tributary to the *Pequots*, a people residing on the shores of the Connecticut and Mystic rivers, more fierce, cruel and warlike than any of the tribes around them, and who at one time numbered four thousand able warriors. Their large canoes enabled them to transport across the sound any number of men, and their frequent visits to the island, overawed the tribes, and secured a continuance of their dominion. Some few families of the *Pequots* resided at Southampton and Southold, and on Shelter Island; but their residence was only occasional. They formed no social connections with the islanders, and the probability is, they were placed in those parts merely to observe the movements of their tributaries, and act as spies upon their conduct.

At the first settlement by the whites, the *Montauketts* were yet numerous. They raised great quantities of corn and vegetables; their woods were well stocked with animals and birds, and their bays and ponds with water fowl. Their canoes, in which they visited the neighboring islands and the continent, as far east as Boston, and as far south as New York, were of the largest class; and that of Wyandanch, was so large as to require the strength of seven or eight men to draw it from the water upon the shore, and on one occasion it suffered injury from the waves at Gardiner's Island, for want of a sufficient number of persons to place it beyond the reach of the sea. With New Haven and the Connecticut river, their intercourse was frequent. Their habits were social, and they visited, in great frequency and familiarity, the families of neighboring tribes, with whom they delighted to mix in converse and friendly gaiety.

In the arts they had made but small advancement. The principal articles of manufacture were shell beads, which were called wampum, and which from all accounts they made in greater abundance than any other tribe. It was, as is generally known a substitute for money, used as a currency throughout the New England country by the Indians, and afterwards received and adopted as such by the whites. The beads were blue and white, and those of the darker hue were of double or treble value. They were also manufactured into belts, which were worn around the waists of the chiefs, and often exchanged with other tribes in commemoration of signal events. The commencement of a peace, or the renewal of a treaty, was always consummated by an exchange of belts of wampum. They also manufactured earthen vessels, hardened by the fire; arrow heads, made from the white flint stone; the bow and the arrow shaft; the axe of stone

which, with the aid of fire, served very slowly and coarsely to fashion the canoe; the scanty clothing for their bodies, and the moccasins for their feet; the matting of rushes and reeds, which formed the covering of their wigwams, and the carpet for their beds; and the bowl for the preparation of food, the place of which was more frequently supplied by its representative, the gourd or pumpkin shell. The invention of the head, and the labors of the hand, had supplied little else for the convenience or luxuries of Indian life. Barbarism among all people exhibits very nearly the same advancement in the arts, and the only differences are such as nature makes, in her requirements for the support or protection of life. In their domestic affairs, the women performed the duties of the wigwam and the labors of the field, assisted in a very small degree by the old men and children.

Their language differed but little from that of either of the eastern tribes—they all spoke a kindred tongue—nothing more probable than that difference of dialect, which is found to exist in the different sections of even civilized nations. If the same person was to write down, from the mouth of the Indian, the languages of the various tribes, the same letters would be used to express the same sound, and probably that difference of spelling which exists, has only arisen from the different impression made upon different ears by a like sound where any material variation appears, or a different term is used, it may well arise from the application of a synonymous word existing in the same language. It is a wonderful fact that several words in the Montaukett language are precisely the same with those of a corresponding signification in the language of the Indians of Owhyhee, one of the Sandwich Islands.

They were, as I have before remarked, polytheists, and had gods in great numbers; gods of lesser influence having particular charges, and two exalted ones, the good and the evil deity, having a general superintendence and control, as well over all other gods, as over men. There was a god of the four corners of the earth, and the four seasons of the year; another of the productions of the earth; another of the elements; one of day and night; and a god of the hearth, the family, and domestic relations. The great good and supreme god they called *Cawhluntoowut*, which signifies one possessed of supreme power. The great evil spirit was named *Mulchesumetoooh*, which signifies evil power. They worshipped and offered sacrifices to these gods at all times. They had small idols or images and a regular priesthood who knew the will of the gods, by whom these idols were consulted. The priests were called *Powawas*, or *Pow-was*, and declared to the people what the gods required of them; when dances and feasts

should be made; when presents should be given to the old people; when sacrifices should be offered to the gods, and of what kind. These pow-was pretended to hold intercourse with the gods in dreams, and with the evil spirits in particular, who appeared to them in different forms, and by voices in the air. These were the medicine men; they administered to the sick; relieved those afflicted by evil spirits and by poison; and by their incantation and charms, protected them from all hurt. Subjected to the pow-wa's influence, neither could fire burn them nor water drown them; nor could they receive any injury whatever. The most savory sacrifice made to their great deity was the tail or fin of the whale, which they roasted. The leviathan from which it was taken, was at times found upon the sea shore, and then a great and prolonged pow-wow, or religious festival, was held. At these festivals great efforts were supposed to be necessary to keep the evil one without the charmed circle of their incantations. His presence, it was supposed, would defeat the object of the pow-was in the procurement of the favor and particular regard of the good deity. Violent gesticulations, horrid yells, and laborious movements of the limbs and body, with distortions of the features, were continued until the excitement produced approached to madness. When the evil spirit was supposed to be subjugated, the dance and the feast commenced. It is among the Indians' tradition, that at one of their pow-wos, the existence of the evil spirit was evidenced by his having left the imprint of his foot on a granite rock at Montauk, when driven from the feast; and by three holes in the ground at regular distances where he alighted, in three several leaps, from the place of his standing, and then disappeared.

They believed in a future state of existence: that their souls would go westward, a great distance, and many moons journey, to a place where the sprits of all would reside, and where, in the presence of their great Sawwonnuntoh, beyond the setting sun, the brave and good would exercise themselves in pleasurable singing, in feasting, hunting and dancing forever; the coward, the traitor, the liar, and the thief, were also there; but the enjoyments of the favored of Sawwonnuntoh only added to the pains and punishments visited upon the misdeeds of the wicked. Servile labor so painful to, and so much despised by the Indian, was the allotment of the sinful. The making a canoe with a round stone, and carrying water in a wicker basket, were among the perplexing exercises of those who had sacrificed the happiness of their future existence to the will of Mutcheshesumetook, or the evil power.

Their dead were committed to the care of the women and

the *pow-was*, after having first undergone ablution; the bodies were fancifully adorned with a great variety of ornaments, such as had been used by the deceased on gala days while living, and such as had been given by their particular friends and relatives for the occasion. The face of the corpse was painted, to disguise the appearance of death, and with these preparations the body was borne to the grave by the young men, followed and preceded by the women, making loud and mournful lamentations. The personal attire of the dead, together with his equipments of war, if a brave, were buried with the body, which was placed in a sitting posture about two feet below the surface of the ground. A bowl of *samp* was placed upon the grave, to support its occupant in the imaginary journey westward of the setting sun. The family now prepared a new habitation, and the wigwam, in which the deceased expired, was destroyed. A year of mourning followed, during which period the women of the family painted their faces black, put aside their fine ornaments, joined in no dance or feasts, nor even mentioned the name of the deceased. When the year of sorrow was completed, and on the first of the new moon thereafter, the mourners made a great dance from the setting to the rising of the sun.

The marriage of the *Montauketts* were celebrated with much ceremony, and with great feasts and merry-makings. Polygamy was not indulged. Marriages were entered into between infant children, by their respective parents, to be consummated when they should arrive at the age of maturity. The mothers nourished indiscriminately their plighted infants, familiarized them by constant association, and did whatever might tend to give them an affection for each other. If, when arrived at the years of discretion, the parties should have formed other attachments, they were at liberty to forego the parental arrangement. The presents, which were made in the marriage engagement, were then returned to the respective donors, and the intentions of the parents relinquished. Young people were also permitted, by the consent of their parents, to form alliances of their own choosing; and marriages of policy were also contracted by parents, without the knowledge of the parties betrothed, and no acquaintance existed between them. The day of naming a child was, likewise, a day of festivity. A great company was collected; dances were engaged in; presents of ornamental wampum, of beads and other ornaments, of dishes and apparel, were given to invited guests; and the name of the child always pronounced by every recipient of a gift. But it was not always known by this first naming; it was common for parents to name their children several times, and by different names. Many of their deeds transferring land are executed with a

number of aliases appended to the original name. The Indian population of Easthampton, when the town was first visited by the whites, is not known. The Montaukett tribe exercised the right of hunting throughout the island, and frequently pursued the deer as far west as the Dutch settlements.

In 1637, Wyandanch and his warriors confederated with the whites, in the war against the Pequots, three days after the great battle at Mystic Fort. The severity which that tribe had exercised over his own people, and those of his brothers Poggatacut and Nowedinah, the former great sachem of Long Island, and the latter sachem of the Shinecocks, induced him to exert the full extent of his forces in the destruction of that powerful nation. He therefore united with Capt. Stoughton, in the pursuit of those who had fled after the battle of Mystic to the Great Swamp beyond New Haven, and gratified his deep hatred in the destruction of upwards of two hundred of the foe. Sassacus, the Pequot sachem, fled to the Mohawks, and like Themistocles, sought shelter and protection of his constant and persevering enemies. But those to whom his name had been a terror, wanted the magnanimity which his confidence and bravery should have inspired, they put to death Sassacus with several of his chief captains, and sent the head of the sachem to Hartford as a propitiatory offering to the English, who seemed to relish Indian blood, as well as they loved wampum and land, and whose late successful wars against the natives had alarmed very generally both the near and distant tribes. Previous to the battle at Mystic, Wyandanch, under promise of protection from the Massachusetts Council, which he had met at Plymouth, had put to death all the Pequots he could find, both on Shelter and Long Islands. Fearing that some might be left, the English after that battle sent Thomas Stanton from the fort at the mouth of the Connecticut River, to extirpate the remainder; but the friendly chief had so thoroughly done his work, that none were to be found. Uncas, the chief sachem of the Mohegans, and Miantonomoh, the chief sachem of the Narragansetts, had engaged with the English in the destruction of the Pequot nation, and had afterwards quarreled between themselves in a division of the spoils. A mutual and warm friendship subsisted between Wyandanch and Uncas, but the repeated difficulties and destructive wars which he had encountered with the powerful tribe of the Narragansetts, had made him greatly inimical to the sachem Miantonomoh. Although Wyandanch had been uniformly friendly to the English, the tribute which the Pequots had extorted from his nation by violence and war was now exacted from their efficient ally by the whites themselves. As the conquerors of the

Pequot nation, they claimed from the Montauketts the tribute which had annually been paid to Sassacus, and which, without justice or color of right, continued until 1656 to be imposed and exacted. Wyandanch now returned with his warriors to Montaukett, and made great preparations to sustain himself against the threatened hostilities of the Narragansetts. After the destruction of the Pequots, the disagreement between Uncas and Miantonomoh had nearly resulted in a general war between their nations. To prevent this Uncas had sent a challenge to Miantonomoh, and proposed to cast their differences upon the issues of a personal combat. Miantonomoh declined the proffered issue; by the persuasion and interference of the English, they at length consented to lay aside all animosities, and entered into a treaty of peace. Notwithstanding his pretenses of friendly feeling, Miantonomoh relieved from all fear of the Pequots, and from his controversy with Uncas, was attempting, as early as 1642, to effect a combination among the Long Island and New England Indians against the further encroachments of the whites. He was alarmed at the rapid extension of their power and territory, and had become restless under the restraint imposed by the Bay Colony, and the exactions made of him for wampum. To break up the intercourse of the English with the Montauk Indians, he visited Wyandanch, accompanied by two of his chiefs, and made great efforts to enlist him in the combination.

CHAPTER II.

As early as 1639, Gardiner's Island, called by the Indians Monchonock, a term signifying a place where many have died, first named by the English the Isle of Wight, and which is now comprised in the township of Easthampton, was settled by the family of Lion Gardiner. This was the earliest British settlement within the present State of New York.

Mr. Gardiner was a native of England, and had been educated to the profession of arms. When he entered upon active life, the Netherlands and Germany were the theatres of wars which were engrossing the attention of the civilized world, and which interested in a greater or less degree the nations of Europe. The Low Countries were engaged in a contest in the course of which they achieved the highest renown, and sapped the foundations of Spanish prosperity; while the famous thirty years war between the Protestants and Catholics of Germany was drawing to either side notorious cham-

pions from every quarter. Family connections and private vexations, induced the Kings of England, first James, and afterwards Charles, to favor the cause of the Netherlands against Spain, and Gardiner was among the many of the young men of Britain, of bold and adventurous spirit, seeking fame, or sympathizing with the oppressed, repaired, in the language of the day, "to trail a lance or pike in the Prince of Orange's army." The military celebrity of Frederick Henry, who succeeded his brother Maurice, as well as his high character, which was only equaled by that of his great contemporary, Gustavus Adolphus, enlisted universal partiality. Among those who thus engaged in the cause of the Netherlands, was Lion Gardiner, a lieutenant by rank, who became master of works of fortifications in the encampment of the prince, and who in the course of a war replete with rapid and striking events, saw much active service. It was not long before the penalty of non-conformity drove many of the English dissenters to seek a refuge in the same country. Among these were some men of distinction, both of the church and of the laity, who chiefly settled themselves in the city of Rotterdam in the peaceful enjoyment of their religious sentiments. The doctrines they held spread among their countrymen in the army, and to that source they turned for men who possessed the active qualification necessary to carry into effectual execution the designs which they were quickly induced to entertain of colonization in America. Through the persuasions of the celebrated Hugh Peters, then pastor of the English church, at Rotterdam, and during the latter part of the Protectorate, chaplain of Oliver Cromwell; and of John Davenport, who had been a popular minister in London, and who afterwards became eminent in New England, Gardiner consented to repair to the Colonies. He entered into an agreement with Mr. Peters, by which he pledged his services to the company of the patentees of the territory at the mouth of the Connecticut river, "in the drawing, ordering and making of a city, towns and fortifications." By the terms of his agreement, he was to act in this employment four years, and have under his command three hundred able bodied men. In the meantime, while on services probably at Fort Orange, in the neighborhood of the small city of Woerden, so often devastated in the wars of Europe, he became acquainted with Mary Wilemsen, a native of that place, and a lady of prominent connections, to whom he allied himself in marriage.

On the 10th of July, 1635, in fulfillment of his engagement, Mr. Gardiner, with his wife, Mary, left Woerden, and went to London, whence they took passage for America, in a small Norsey barque, of only twenty-five tons. She was amply fur-

nished by the patentees with every suitable kind of provision ; and in her there embarked in all eleven persons, besides Mr. Gardiner, his wife, and a female servant. The undertaking was certainly extremely hazardous ; and even at this day, with all the superiority of modern seamanship, and with all the multiplied improvements in naval architecture, and the art of navigation, it would require a bold heart and great determination of purpose, to venture in a vessel so small, upon a voyage of such peril and prospective hardships. But the hazards of a soldier's life, which are apt to make men careless of danger, were familiar to Lion Gardiner, and no anticipation could weaken the confidence which, as a zealous puritan, he reposed in the guardian care of God. The voyage was very tempestuous, but in the language of Governor Winthrop, "through the Lord's great providence," the vessel with her passengers and goods, all arrived safe at the mouth of the Connecticut river, (after touching at Boston,) on the 28th of November, 1635. A few days previous to the arrival of Gardiner at Saybrook, Governor Winthrop, who had lately been commissioned by the patentees, had sent twenty men, principally carpenters, under charge of Left. Gibbons, to take possession of the place.

Here they commenced the erection of buildings, against the ensuing spring, expecting the arrival at that time of three hundred men who were to have followed Gardiner from England ; two hundred of whom were to have engaged in erection of fortifications ; fifty in tilling the ground, and fifty in assisting those previously engaged in building houses. But great was their disappointment in the spring to learn from Col. Geo. Fenwick, one of the patentees, who then arrived, that they were not to expect the promised men. From some cause, the patentees had been unable to accomplish that part of their original agreement.

The vexation at this disappointment, though great, was much increased by the imprudence of the Commissioners at Boston. Some four or five years previously, the Pequots had killed Captain Stone and his crew, who had arrived from Virginia, and were passing up the Connecticut river. The English having taken offense at this act of the Pequots, had complained of it to them, and demanded a delivery of those who had been engaged in the murder. The Pequots charged Capt Stone of having, by his improper and suspicious conduct, provoked their hostility, and declined to deliver them up. They, however, sent to the Commissioners some otter skin coats and beaver, and some skeins of wampum, in mitigation of the offense. These presents were declined by the Commissioners, and returned through the agency of Hugh Peters, Mr. Oldham, and Mr. Stanton, who had accompanied Mr. Fenwick to Saybrook.

It was Mr. Gardiner's opinion, and so it turned out, that a return of the presents would lead to an open rupture with that powerful, fierce, and warlike tribe. He exhorted them, therefore, not to return them until he was better prepared for defence. He insisted that they ought not to jeopardize the lives of his small force, consisting of only twenty-four persons, including women and children, for the death of a Virginian, with whose people the Commissioners held no political relations. He urged also that he had on hand but the gathering of three acres of corn, and that none was to be obtained under twelve shillings sterling per bushel; that to expose him to the Indians, whose mercies were cruelties, without food and without houses to cover his people, and when so long a time had elapsed since the cause of offense accrued, showed that their love was greater for the Virginians than for him; and that though nature had done much toward rendering the place of easy fortification, forts could not protect them against famishing. He besought these gentlemen, therefore, to urge the Commissioners to restrain their ardor for immediate war. When afterwards, Endicott, and Turner, and Underhill, with their forces, were sent from Boston to make a descent on the Pequots near New London, and had arrived at the command of Gardiner, at Saybrook, he told them: "You have come hither to raise these wasps about my ears, and then you will take wing and flee away." Finding his advice and his remonstrances unavailing, he made preparations to sustain his little band against the attacks of the Indians as he best could. His fort was invested by the Pequots from time to time, until the termination of the war. He himself was wounded in the thigh, and sustained a loss of several of his men in skirmishes with the Indians.

Gardiner's narrative of the Pequot war is written with so much simplicity, and naturalness of manner, as well as with such inherent marks of probability, that sufficient vouchers of its truth are borne upon its very first pages. The letter transmitting it for the use of his friends, exhibits such candor and singleness of purpose, that I here insert it.

"Easthampton, June 12, 1660.

"Loving Friends,

"ROBERT CHAPMAN, and THOS. HURLBURT:

"My love remembered to you both. These are to inform, that as you desired me when I was with you and Major MASON at *Seabrooke*, two years and a half ago, to consider and call to mind the passages of God's providence at *Seabrooke*, in and about the time of the *Pequot war*. Wherein I have now endeavored to answer your desires, and have rumaged and found some old papers then written, it was a

great help to my memory. You know that when I came to you I was an *engineer* or *architect*, whereof carpentry is a little part, but you know I could never use all the tools; for although for my necessity I was forced sometimes to use my shifting chissel and my holdfast, yet you know I could never endure nor abide the smoothing plane. I have sent you a piece of timber scored and forchewed, unfit to join to any handsome piece of work, but seeing I have done the hardest work, you must get somebody to chip it and to smooth it, lest the splinters should prick some men's fingers—for the truth must not be spoken at all time.

“Though to my knowledge I have written nothing but truth, and you may take out, or put in, what you please, or if you will, may throw it all into the fire. But I think you may let the Governor and Major MASON see it. I have also inserted some additions of things that were done since, that they may be considered together. And thus as I was when I was with you, so I remain still,

“Your loving friend,

“LION GARDINER.”

This “*Relation of the Pequot Wars*,” as the author suggested, did prick some men's fingers, and it was not given to the public. Of the causes and promoters of that war, his “*Relation*” differs somewhat from those which were many years afterwards published. His situation, however, placed within his reach the best possible knowledge; his command of the Fort was above suspicion, and he could have no motive to misrepresent. In all his relations with the Indians, he appears from his first landing to have entertained the most just views, even at a time when such were not sanctioned by the conduct of those who made great pretensions to the Christian's faith. If he executed vengeance upon some, he did it under the imperious necessity of self defense, and for the protection of those under his charge. His punishment extended not beyond the aggressor; the innocent were not involved in the fate of the guilty. He made no pretense of butchering the poor Indians for the good of their souls and the glory of God. He regarded them as human beings, and treated them accordingly. The Pequot war he disapproved of; and though he rejoiced at the success of the English arms, he could not but regret the horrid butchery which had attended its progress and results. This numerous tribe “supped so full of horrors” as to exceed all rational explanation of what could have induced our Christian ancestors (who par-excellence assumed to be the salt of the earth,) to have pursued so unrelentingly, with fire and sword, this ill fated people. The massacre at Mystic Fort was indiscrimi-

nate—of old men, women and children. The Rev'd Cotton Mather says, that "no less than five or six hundred Pequots' souls were brought down to hell that day."

Lion Gardiner remained at Saybrook Fort four years, actively engaged in the settlement of Connecticut river, when he made the necessary preparations to remove to the Isle of Wight, called by the Indians Monchonock, which he had bought of the sachem Wyandanch. It was during the Pequot war, that he became acquainted with this sachem. He was introduced to him by his friend Major Gibbons, a distinguished soldier of Massachusetts, who had with himself served in the armies of the Netherlands. From this and during a long life, Wyandanch maintained for Gardiner an ardent, disinterested and constant attachment. In the autumn of the year 1639, Gardiner removed to his island; his Indian purchase having, on the tenth of March previous, in consideration of the payment of £5. annually, been confirmed to him by a deed from James Farrett, deputy of the Earl of Sterling, secretary of the Kingdom of Scotland, who had received the king's patent. He brought to the island, besides his own family, a number of those who had been under him in the garrison of the fort.

On his arrival, he immediately commenced the labors of cultivation and improvement. He had had, while at Saybrook, an addition of two children to his family, a son and a daughter. The former, whose name was David, was born on the twenty-ninth of April, 1636, and was *the first white child born in Connecticut*. The latter, who was named Mary, was born in 1638, on the thirtieth of August. On the 14th of September, 1641, Elizabeth, his last child, was born upon this island. She was the *first English child born within the present State of New York*. The island was of good soil, and covered almost entirely with a growth of large timber. The wood consisted principally of oaks, intermixed sparsely with the walnut and the beech. The land was high and undulating, and as the forest was mostly full of underbrush, the labors of agriculture were more easily accomplished. Much of the open ground had been planted by the Indians with corn, and it was here that the first rude beginning of cultivation were made. The goat and the hog were the first domestic animals introduced; and the field pea, the pumpkin, and the Indian corn, were the first gatherings of their planting. Cows and horses were subsequently obtained from New England, and wheat and barley soon succeeded the other crops. Mr. Gardiner continued on the island with his family until 1653, when he removed with his wife and daughters, and located himself at the southern part of what is now the village of Easthampton. David, his son, with the labor-

ers and farmers, remained until 1657, when he left for England, and spent some years in London.

The disturbed and restless state of the surrounding Indians, and the continually threatened and often expected incursions of the Narragansetts, gave Gardiner much uneasiness, and occasioned frequent alarm. To protect his family and people against the stealthy attack of the lurking and crafty foe, required from him incessant watchfulness. The duties of "watch and ward," which had been familiar to him from early life, were vigilantly executed; and the rigid observance of all necessary circumspection was daily and nightly enforced. During the first year of his residence here, he could derive no aid from any English settlement, nearer than the one he had assisted in forming at the mouth of Connecticut river; and in case of emergency, his only reliance for support was upon his friend, Wyandanch. His own safety, however, was not his only care, and during a residence of sixteen years on his islands, he continued in correspondence with the Governors of New Haven and Hartford, exhorting them to vigilance, and communicating such intelligence of the projects and movements of the Indians of New England, as he was enabled to derive from his intimacy with the chiefs of the Montauketts. Wyandanch kept him well advised of the plots and plans of his old enemy Miantonomoh, the Narragansett sachem, who, after the Pequot war, had become much disaffected toward the English.

Under the impression that mischief was on foot against the settlements, Mr. Gardiner made frequent visits to Montauk, and, on one occasion, met Miantonomoh there. Wyandanch communicated to him the object and views of the Narragansetts, and the following eloquent "talk":

"You must not," said Miantonomoh, "give to the English any more wampum, for they are no sachems; nor shall any of their children be, in their place, if they die. They have no tribute given them. There is but one king in England who is over them all; and if you should give him an hundred thousand fathoms of wampum, he would not give you a knife for it, nor thank you."

"Then," said Wyandanch, "they will come and kill us all, as they did the Pequots."

"No," replied the Narragansett, "the Pequots gave them wampum and beaver which they loved so well, but they sent it to them again because they had killed an Englishman. But you have killed none; therefore, give them nothing."

Some time after this, and when Wyandanch was absent, he returned again with a troop of men; and instead of receiv-

ing presents as a superior, as he had formerly done, he brought presents for them, and addressed to them this artful and impressive speech :

“Brothers, we must be one, as the English are one; otherwise, we shall all shortly be gone. You know our fathers had plenty of deer and skins—our woods and plains were full of deer and turkies, and our coves of fish and fowl. But, brothers, these Englishmen have gotten our lands; they cut down the grass with their scythes, and, with their axes, fell the trees. Their cows and horses eat up the grass, and their hogs spoil our clam beds, and we shall be starved. Therefore, stand not in your own light, but resolve with us to act like men. All the sachems, both east and west, have joined with us, and we are resolved to fall upon the English at an appointed time. For this purpose I have come secretly to you, because you can persuade the Indians and sachems of Long Island what you will. Brothers, I will send over fifty Indians to Block Island, and thirty to you from thence; and take an hundred of Southampton Indians, with an hundred of your own here—and when you see the three fires that will be made at the end of forty days hence in a clear night, then do as we shall do, and follow, and kill men, women and children—but not the cows, they will serve for provisions till the deer be increased.”

The old man replied, “It is well.”

Wyandanch, on his return, discovered to Lieut. Gardiner the visit of Miantonomoh and his projects for the destruction of the English. This information he immediately communicated to the magistracy of Connecticut.

“So the plot,” says Gardiner, “failed, and the plotter, next spring after, did as Ahab did, at Ramoth Gilead.”

On the death of Miantonomoh, another sachem of the Narragansetts, called by the Montauketts Ninicraft, and who bore also other names, undertook to carry into effect the plans which had heretofore failed. More subtle than Miantonomoh, he possessed equal pride and fierceness. The arbitrary course pursued against him by the whites, made him implacable in his hatred toward them, but he was sagacious enough to avoid the danger of an open rupture. When Mr. Mahew desired permission to preach to his people, he bid him go and make English good first. He possessed also some magnanimous traits of character, and when questioned in relation to what it was his interest to falsify, he manfully replied, “My tongue shall not belie my heart.” Ninicraft, two years after the death of Miantonomoh, sent one of his captains to open again proposals of a combination against

the English. But Wyandanch, true to his friend, seized the messenger, and delivered him bound to Gardiner, who placing him in charge of his servants and nine men, ordered them to deliver him over to the Governor of New Haven. The weather proving unfavorable, they were detained some days at Shelter Island, when the prisoner escaped from them, and apprised Ninicraft of his unsuccessful mission, and the unfriendly act of the Montauketts. Ninicraft finding Wyandanch unmanageable, determined on his destruction; and from thenceforth made no efforts to reconcile him to his policy. The portrait of Ninicraft is preserved in New York by a descendant of John Winthrop, Jun., with the tradition that the life of his ancestor was once saved by him.

CHAPTER III.

On the twenty-ninth day of April, 1648, Poggatacut, sachem of Monhansuck, Wyandanch, sachem of Montaukett, Momowata, Corchate sachem, and Nowedinah, the Shinecock sachem, conveyed to "the Worshipful Theophilus Eaton, Governor of the Colony of New Haven, and the Worshipful Edward Hopkins, Governor of the Colony of Connecticut, and their associates," the lands lying from the bounds of Southampton to the east side of Neapeag, next unto Montaukett, for the consideration of twenty coats, twenty-four hoes, twenty-four hatchets, twenty-four knives, twenty-four looking glasses, and one hundred muxes; the grantors reserving to themselves the right of fishing, hunting and fowling, the fins and tails of whales cast upon the shore, the skins of deer driven by them into the water and killed by the English, and the right to fish after shells for wampum. These boundaries embraced nearly thirty-one thousand acres of land.

In the spring of 1651, the interest of the above grantees, upon the payment of thirty pounds, four shillings, and eight pence, sterling, was assigned by deed in conformity to a previous contract to *The Inhabitants of Easthampton*. John Hand, Sen., John Stretton, Sen., Thomas Talmadge, Jun., Robt. Bond, Daniel Howe, Robt. Rose, Thos. Tomson, Joshua Barnes, and John Mulford, commenced the first settlement, under the original contract, early in 1649. The first six of these came from Lynn, in Massachusetts, where they had remained for some time after their arrival from England. The father of Talmadge, whose name was also Thomas, was a

large proprietor in that purchase, and was made a freeman of that town, previous to 1638. Howe was a sea captain, and held a military appointment under the magistracy of Salem. Hand was from the hamlet of Stanstede, in the county of Kent, England, where, for several years after his arrival here, he held an estate in lands. Barnes and Mulford had, but a short time previous to the purchase, arrived and settled at Southampton, from Salem. Most, if not all, of them were from Maidstone, or the country in its vicinity, in the county of Kent, one of the richest agricultural districts in England. They first named the purchase Maidstone, after that town: a name which ought to have been retained, in preference to the one subsequently adopted and still used, as far more euphonious and exclusive. That appellation continued for some forty years to be incidentally used, until at length it was lost sight of in all writings relating to the town. It is not known that it was ever acknowledged in judicial or legislative acts, but, in wills and deeds, it was long retained by individual choice. It is to be hoped that the "towns people" may yet be persuaded to obtain a legislative enactment, restoring to them their good name.

The settlement formed, the wilderness was now to be cultivated. The grounds were to be cleared of the forest. The wild animal was to give place to the tame and domestic; the hunting ground and wigwam to the arable field and pleasant cottage; the guttural voice of the red man to the softened tones of the civilized white, and the pow-was of the savage to the worship of the Christians' God. But first, privations were to be endured; difficulties to be encountered; and dangers to be provided against. The inclemency of the seasons, the depredations of savage beasts, the deadly bite of the serpent, and the silent arrow of the lurking Indian, were all to be avoided with prudence, care and watchfulness. The first settlers were men already inured to labor, and most of them to the hazards of life in the wilderness. They were farmers, and well understood the cultivation of the ground and the labor of production. They had not left their country with golden dreams. They had not to reconcile themselves to the toil requisite to supply the necessary demands of life. The richness of the soil required only a moderate skill in its cultivation to render it eminently productive.

For miles around their first location, the country was almost a perfect level, in some parts gently undulating, but, throughout, unbroken. In their immediate settlement, the soil was deep, and the sub-soil three or four feet in depth. There was no stone to be removed, and no moist ground to be drained. Beyond the plain, to the west were light lands, producing the pine in luxuriant growth. To the east of the

high land was a district of country called Neapeag, of several miles in extent, partially wooded with a growth of dwarfish pine, and comprising some salt meadows; but the greatest part was a low waste of sand, frequently overflowed. It has since much encroached upon the sea, and the hills of fanciful shape, which are now seen along its southern border, have been formed by the joint operation of the wind and waves, subsequently to that period. At extraordinary high tides, the water of the sea still passes over it, and renders it occasionally difficult to be crossed. The sand hills, though to some measure confined by the long roots of the beach grass, frequently change their appearance and position. The high land, on its eastern border, was evidently once the boundary of the ocean. The south shore of this district of sand, at the time of the settlement, extended but little beyond the line of the first house on Montauk; and the whole shore could, at a much later day, be seen from the door of that house to the highlands at Amagansett. Near the western termination of the beach, about midway from ocean to the high lands, are to be seen the relics of the skeleton of a whale. The skeleton, at the earliest recollection of the whites, was nearly perfect, and must, from its appearance, have been left by the receding sea. The Neapeag harbor, which has its entrance from the sound, is gradually diminishing on the north side from the encroachments of the sand; while on the west, the shore has evidently receded, as stumps of trees are to be seen some distance below low water mark. On the latter side, a small, but very deep pond, formerly of fresh water, separated from the sound by high hills of loose sand, discharges into the harbor. To the east of this was Montauk, a high and hilly region of rich land, where resided the tribe of that name, over whom Wyandanch exercised control. Along the whole sea coast of the town, the border of the upland produced a scrub oak; but the trees being gradually protected by each other, from the violence of the winds which reached from over the wide spread ocean, enlarged in height and size as they receded. The oaks were the predominant tree; they were of large growth, and, in the openings, of very extended branches. It was here the Indian had, in his rude manner, cultivated his corn, and, by annual burnings, prevented the growth of underbrush.

Throughout the purchase, the woods abounded in game, and the wolves were so numerous that it became necessary to effect their destruction by payment of a large bounty. Hounds were kept at the public charge for hunting them, and "after serious consideration and tedious debate, it was at last agreed that *John Osborn* and *Stephen Osborn* shall have "eight pounds for keeping the old hounds a year, and they

“shall keep them still.” The swamp at the east end of Hook Pond, called the Great Swamp, was much frequented by them, and their nightly ravages diminished the flocks and the folds. The ponds abounded in perch, and in the harbors and creeks, bass were in great plenty. The seine has since thinned their number, and what would have satisfied the hunger and the taste of many, has been sacrificed to gratify the avarice and selfishness of the few. At Georgika Pond, or Lake, as it would from its extent be more fully denominated, perch of a large size were taken in abundance, and the laborer, after his daily task was ended, could in a few minutes, with his baited hook, supply the wants of his family for the coming day. Bass and eels in great numbers were taken in the harbors with spears, and shell fish furnished many a feast.

Before a year from the first settlement had elapsed, the number of inhabitants had been increased to thirty-four families. They settled around what is now called Town Pond, but what was then a mere swamp or morass. The bushes were destroyed, and the mire was removed and used as a manure. Their dwellings, like those of our modern pioneers, were made of logs or rough boards, with thatched roofs, and coarsely put together for a temporary residence. Of those who had joined the settlement during the first year several were from Gardiner's Island, where they had been farmers for Mr. Gardiner, and some from the settlement of Southampton, and others from several towns in New England, bordering on the sound.

They established a government, partly democratic and partly representative, in the most simple form. However good the character of a people may be, it is absolutely necessary that some rule of conduct should prevail. Being without the jurisdiction of any of the chartered colonies, it became necessary for them to establish regulations of their own formation, or to adopt those of a system already devised. They had left their firesides and country to be freed of the arbitrary administration of the government of Britain, and the multitude of vexatious laws which restrained the freedom of mind and body; but not for the abandonment of all government and all restraint. They were of too practical a character to believe in the perfectability of human nature, and too well acquainted with mankind to think that a community could be restrained from injustice by the mere light of reason. An established religion had been obnoxious to them at home, and they had seen that the restraint imposed upon conscience, and upon the exercise of civil rights was the occasion of great disturbance there. They did not therefore incorporate in their civil code a system of worship; they gave

no religious opinions a legal adoption, nor did they make church membership a necessary qualification for office. Wherever they had found an union of the church with the civil government, tyranny and oppression were its sure concomitants. It was their desire to enjoy the benefits of both, yet so that neither should encroach upon the other.

They now ordained a General Court, composed of the whole assembled people. Three men at first were selected at the General Court, and subsequently, four to constitute a Special Court. They acted under the solemnity of the following oath: "You being chosen by this *Court* for the careful and comfortable carrying on the affairs of this *Town*, do here swear, by the name of the great and ever living God, that you will faithfully, and without respect of persons, execute all jury laws and orders as shall or may be made and established by this *Court*, according to God, according to the trust committed to you during this year for which you are chosen, and until a new one be chosen, if you remain among us. So help you God." The three men were annually chosen, and had jurisdiction over all matters of controversy between individuals. From them there was an appeal to the General Court. Their first process was called a warrant or summons; and when a jury was had, their verdict was final. An executive officer, called a constable, carried into effect the judgment of the Court. All laws were enacted, and all the general affairs were regulated at a town meeting, at which every inhabitant was bound under penalty to be present. In all actions for money over forty shillings, and in all criminal suits, a jury of seven men were called. A secretary was also appointed, whose duty was, under the responsibility of an oath to be performed, "according to his order."

This was the whole machinery of their government, and it appears to have worked well. Their laws or orders were few, and principally related to the distribution, possession and enjoyment of their lands. Their criminal code was for the first year that general rule, of not doing or suffering to be done unto others what they would not that others should do unto them. The degree of punishment for any offence against the laws, was the mildest under the common law of the community from which they had separated. Their better feelings revolted from the execution of the bloody code of the New England Colonies, and repudiated the severe enactments of the Jewish legislator. They sent to Connecticut for a copy of the laws of that colony, but they adopted few of them, and never carried into effect those of great severity. Upon the conviction of an individual of an offence punishable by the Connecticut code with death, and for which several had

there suffered this extreme penalty, they declared by an unanimous vote "that it was not worthy of the taking away of life, or limb, or banishment," and only ordered corporal punishment. The greatest of any punishment were imprisonment, the stocks, and whipping. Even to this extent, they appear to have been conscientiously scrupulous, and, with a neighborly sensibility, often put off for "debate, reflection, and advisement," the punishment of offenses.

Thomas Tallmadge, Jun., was the first recorder or secretary. Judging from his handwriting and orthography, he must have had a good education for that period, when in the mother country the teaching of grammar was held by agrarians of that day, "a corrupting of the youth of the realm." Taking the same extent of learning as a criterion, he had a much better education than some who have held higher stations in our country in this enlightened age. John Mulford, Robt. Bond and Thomas Baker were the first three constituted judges of the Special Court. The two former have already been mentioned, the latter joined the first purchasers soon after their arrival. He came to them from Milford, in Connecticut, then under the jurisdiction of the government of New Haven. He was one of the first settlers there in 1639, and removed to Easthampton in 1650. This Special Court met at eight o'clock in the morning, on the second day of the first week of each month "to try all causes according to order, and to consider of those things that might concern the public good." Among the powers granted to it, was that of marriage. It seems to have been considered by them, as it now is in this State, a civil contract. Not as it then was, and now is in England, a matter of ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

The grounds were divided among the settlers, in proportion to the amount each had advanced of the purchase money. Subsequently, settlers were admitted upon terms agreed upon by the General Court. No person was allowed to sell or buy lands, without the permission of the town; and thus dangerous or improper persons, those of doubtful morals, were excluded from the society. Vagrants, or those having no settled place of residence, were not permitted to remain in families, even with their consent. Hired laborers were liable to be removed at the discretion of the General Court. By a general order those capable of bearing arms were required to equip themselves with such as were fit for use, with powder, ball and swan shot. No arms or ammunition were permitted to be sold or given to the Indians. Those who fired the woods in clearing their lands, were liable to all damages, should it spread without their premises. To prevent accidents by fire, it was ordered that none should be taken abroad except in a covered

dish, and each householder was to keep a ladder upon his house which would reach to the top of the roof. These precautionary laws were necessary to a safe enjoyment of their property.

Relying upon the integrity of Eaton and Hopkins, the settlers had paid to the agents of those persons, the consideration for which they held their lands, without having received the proper conveyance, or any acquittance for the payment. By a resolution of the General Court, Ralph Dayton and Robert Bond were successively sent to Hartford to procure the necessary writings. Dayton had but a short time previous arrived from England, and learning on his landing in Boston that a settlement by his friends was undertaken on the east end of Long Island, he immediately proceeded there. They did not succeed in procuring the papers needed, and it was not until repeated visits during several years that the purchasers were furnished with the evidence of their title and payment.

The settlers were all farmers uninstructed in any trade. The laws of Great Britain forbid the emigration of mechanics, under severe penalties, and it was by stealth only they could leave the country. Bounties in land were therefore offered to induce them to join the settlement, and it is found for the first three years they were privileged beyond all other settlers. They were exempted from rates, furnished with houses, and provided for in lands and provisions, besides being paid a fair remuneration for their labors. Goodman Morgan of Southold, was sent for to do the town's weaving, and was to have five pounds in money and two acres of land broken up. A blacksmith was invited from Huntington, and a carpenter had from Wethersfield.

Sumptuary laws were enacted, by which unconscionable demands for articles of necessity were forbidden, but they did not extend to the regulation of dress. Perhaps no occasion had required it. They probably thought themselves beyond the influence which vanity exerts in the decoration of the person. They were mostly upon a level in their station in life, and they were too remote from the other more populous settlements to suffer pride by comparison. Beauty unadorned, is adorned the most, and the good wives and young damsels were not so exposed to the temptations of exotic finery, as to violate this approved maxim. Those who can recollect the aged of the last generation in the town, can pretty accurately conceive what might have been the apparel in long gone by days; since, changes have been little frequent, and eras of fifty years have produced till lately but trifling alterations.

In the article of diet, they were necessarily temperate. The different dishes into which they had learned to manu-

facture the Indian corn and pumpkin, afforded a variety of the most nutritious food. Near by every house stood the samp mortar, a large log hollowed out at one end, with a pestle attached to the extremity of a long pole suspended over it. The other end of the pole was planted in the ground, and a crotch of some ten feet in height supported it midway. This instrument might be heard in operation every Saturday afternoon, preparing the samp and hominy for the coming week. Who that has read our countryman's poem upon samp, porridge and hominy, can but admire a dish that could have inspired the bard to sing its virtues in strains of such unbounded praise. The following verses of an old song, written about the times of our history, are significant of the value set upon the pumpkin :

“ If fresh meat be wanting to fill up our dish,
We have carrots, and pumpkins, and turnips, and fish ;
And if there is a mind for a delicate dish,
We haste to the clam banks, and there we catch fish.

“ Stead of pottage, and puddings, and custard, and pies,
Our turnips, and parsnips, are common supplies ;
We have pumpkins at morning, and pumpkins at noon,
If it was not for pumpkins, we should be undone.”

Mr. Johnson says: “ Let no man make a jest at pumpkins, for with this food the Lord was pleased to feed his people to their good content.”

On Monday morning, by the break of day, was to be heard the beat of the pound barrels throughout the neighborhood, when those whose duty it was to guide the house and diligently follow every good work, were busily employed in cleaning the clothes of the family. By midday the washing was over, and the bushes and fences about the houses were whitened with the labors of the morning. The afternoon was as regularly devoted to visiting and receiving visits, as the morning was to washing, and on many a pleasant afternoon of this day, might have been seen the good wives and damsels dressed in their best attire, wending their way along the narrow foot paths, across the valley by town pond, then almost entirely overgrown with brakes and bushes, to the houses situated on either side. We may imagine that the memory of their friends across the wide waters furnished the visitors with thoughts and feelings, and conversation rendered doubly interesting by sympathy. That all the trifling incidents which made the home of their early life dear to them were carefully recounted, and many a long drawn sigh suffered to escape at the recollection of past endearments and disappointed expectations. The beautiful country around Maidstone, in the fertile county of Kent, from which

most of them had emigrated, and which was dotted with so many of the habitations of their friends and relatives—the river Medway and its grassy banks, upon which they had indulged in youthful frolic—the parents, of whom they had taken a long farewell—the brothers and sisters whom they had left at home, for they still gave to their forsaken hearth that most endearing name, and the last long lingering look when distance was about to shut from their view so many things of most affectionate interest—were doubtless all the subject of remark, and painful, and well as pleasing, remembrance. The incidents of the previous week were probably also recounted and discussed; and perhaps when mingled with a little scandal, were not less grateful to the ready ear. Slander was among the forbidden offenses, and it was the sin which most easily beset them. It was ordered, “that whoever shall slander any one, shall be liable to pay a fine of five pounds;” and as a faithful chronicler, I am bound to acknowledge that several husbands were sufferers for the loquacity of their wives.

Benjamin Price succeeded Tallmadge as recorder, and they exercised the office alternately for a number of years. Price had been a farmer for Mr. Gardiner, on his island, and was a very young, but a married man. He had evidently a good education. About this time a house was purchased for a prison, and placed in the street opposite the dwelling of Goodman Garlick. All able bodied men bore arms; trainings were frequent, and deemed of so much importance, that every absentee was liable to a fine of five shillings.

CHAPTER IV.

MR. THOMAS JAMES, Jun., was the first clergyman. He was the son of Thomas James, Sen., who had been a minister in Lincolnshire, England. James arrived with his father and family at Boston, in the ship William and Frances, on the 5th of June, 1632. The elder James settled at Charlestown, in Massachusetts, and remained there with his son and family a little over three years. Owing to some imprudent speeches of his, the church over which he presided, and of which he had previously been an approved pastor, took offense, and he removed to New Haven. He is said by an historian of that period to have been “a very melancholic man, and full of causeless jealousies.” His son was at the time a young student in divinity, and the tradition is that he was a very young man

when he came to Easthampton. Johnson, in his *Wonder Working Providence*, mentions both father and son in poetic measure, with high commendation, both as to talents and piety. The elder James resided some years in New Haven as a teacher in the church of which Mr. Davenport was minister, these two offices being then held in the same church. In 1642 and 1643 he was engaged in a mission to Virginia, and, in the the latter year, returned to his family, which had remained in New Haven. He is at this time named among the planters of New Haven, his estate being valued at two hundred pounds sterling, and his family consisted of a wife and three children. It is said by Cotton Mather, that he returned to England. Mather, in his catalogue of New England ministers, mentions both father and son; the elder as being in office when he left the mother country, the younger as having finished his education in New England. There appears to have been some contradiction in the accounts of these two persons, owing to there having been a number contemporaneous of the same name.

The earliest notice of Thomas James, Jun., in the records of Easthampton, is on the 22d of April, in the year 1651, when an extension of time was given him to make his log fence. On the 23d of August, 1651, it was ordained in a town meeting "that Mr. James should have for his work in "the ministry, for the ensuing year, £45, and his lands to lie "rate free, and for future time £50 a year, and rate free for "the time of his standing in office in the ministry among "them." From this time he seems to have taken a very active part in all the town's concerns. His interest in the purchase was among the largest, and he occasionally added to it. He appears to have been held in high estimation by both English and Indians, for his integrity and understanding. He was an active man; executor and overseer to a great number of estates, and employed by the natives and whites in the arrangement of their mutual engagements. Independent of the influence which his ministerial station gave him, he commanded much respect for his independence and decision of character. The approbation and regard of his parishioners was frequently evinced, by conferring upon him public offices disconnected with his professional engagements. He was repeatedly chosen a trustee of the town, and placed on committee to watch over and defend their political rights. Minor evidences of kind and benevolent feelings toward him are found upon record. His grist was to be ground first of all on the second day of the week, and he was not to be stayed by any man. The one-half of all whales that should be cast upon the shore were to be given to him and Mr. Lion Gardiner. The wife of James was named Catherine, and he

had a son, Nathaniel, and two daughters, Ruth and Hannah. To what period his wife lived, or whether she survived him, is not known. Nathaniel was a trustee of the town in 1688, but how long he lived is not known. Hannah married James Diamont (Dimon), the son of Thomas Diamont, who settled upon him at his marriage a large part of his estate. Ruth married John Stratton. James was the near neighbor of Lion Gardiner—their house lots adjoined, and they were on terms of great intimacy. They lived on the east side of the burial ground, directly opposite the cemetery of some of the descendants of Mr. Gardiner, and near where it is supposed he was himself interred. James took much interest in the political concerns of the day, and was warmly opposed to submission to the government of the Duke of York or his agents. He preferred the government of Connecticut as more congenial to puritan notions. Probably his abhorrence of papacy, to which the Duke gave countenance, influenced his mind. One of his sermons was so offensive at a later period to Governor Dongan, that a warrant was issued to apprehend James as a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition. He was for several years employed by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England, to labor among the Indians on Long Island, and allowed a compensation. In the year 1695 on the 20th of November, he conveyed by deed all his real estate in Easthampton to John Gardiner, Lord of the Isle of Wight, grandson of Lion Gardiner, for £500. The one-half of this amount was paid at the execution of the deed, and the other moiety Gardiner obligated himself to pay to the assigns of James, within thirty days after his death. The possession of all the estate was to continue in James for the use of his own family during life.

In 1691, the town, on account of the age and infirmities of their worthy pastor, were induced to apply to the Rev'd Mr. Davenport to assist him in the duties of the ministry, but for some misunderstanding he was not engaged. They subsequently employed a Mr. Jones, to whom James relinquished £40 of his salary, and the people added to this amount the further sum of £20 and his fire wood. In August, 1694, Lieut. Fithian was chosen to proceed to New Haven, the residence of the Rev'd Mr. Jones, and wait upon him over, for which service he was to receive from the town, two shillings and six pence a day and his expenses. The allowance before mentioned was continued to Mr. Jones, in that word, until the employment and settlement of the Rev'd Nathaniel Hunting, in the year 1696.

Nothing is known of James's qualifications for the pulpit, but most probably his manner partook of the peculiar spirit of the times. The enthusiasm which pervaded the dissenters in Eng-

land, was brought with them into this wilderness when they fled from the persecutions of those whose ceremonies and ordinances they deemed to be derived of the scarlet one of Babylon—mere inventions of the devil—to lead astray the righteous by show and pomp. In point of doctrine most of them differed nothing from their brethren of the church of England. The many metaphysical notions which disturbed the New England churches, where contiguity elicited disputation about points of faith, were of such nice distinctions “by occasion whereof no man could tell where any difference was. “They were rigidly exact in the *mint, anise and cummin,*” while that charity which beareth all things, and never faileth was put aside and forgotten. The church at Easthampton, it is supposed, adhered to the confession of faith agreed on by the Westminster Assembly in 1642, but adopted the Congregational form of government, instead of the Presbyterian, which was established by that assembly. Subsequently it adopted the Presbyterian form. At Cambridge, the synod of 1648, composed of the New England churches, framed a confession of faith, and form of church discipline, called the Cambridge Platform, which continued the rule of their ecclesiastical polity until 1780. The General Court of the town assumed no authority in church affairs or matters of conscience, but fixed the salary of the clergyman, and provided for its payments. It was assessed upon lands of the individual parishioners. Whether James had any peculiar notions in matters of faith is not known, but whatever they might have been, it is evident, from the fact of his living so harmoniously among them for so long a period, that his people submitted to his better knowledge. Their remoteness from the scene of ecclesiastical contention, which broke into factions the New England churches in regard to the relative merits of justification and sanctification as connected with good works and with faith, saved them from much dissension, and preserved among them that great unity of doctrine which has been an example to all that believe.

That James possessed some of his father’s eccentricity, would appear from his burial, by his own direction, adverse to the general custom, and from a variety of anecdotes which tradition has handed down. He was interred with his head toward the east, that he might face his people at the general resurrection. It would seem that he felt well satisfied with his own conduct, to have thus wished to confront those who might have well known him through life. He died on the sixth day of June, 1696. His monument of red sand stone still stands in the south burial ground undefaced, and if erected at the time of his death, is the earliest memorial in that cemetery, or any other in the town, of any re-

corded death. The length of the grave, if the head and foot stones are properly placed, would denote a person of very small stature. Various circumstances induce the belief that the monument of Mr. James was erected some time after his decease. The monument of Mrs. Gardiner, the wife of John, grandson of Lion Gardiner, of the Isle of Wight, is the next earliest. It is a slab of red sand stone, and records her death in 1707.

It is probable, therefore, that for forty-nine years after the first settlement, no memorials were raised to the dead : unless the four red cedar posts, four or five inches in thickness, and of the usual height of head and foot stones which stand near the earliest graves, were previously erected. Two of these posts are connected above the grave by a rail of the same material, about four inches square, and the other two bear marks of having been once joined in a similar manner. On the former, no appearance of any inscription remains, but on the latter, the initials B. O. can be indistinctly traced. The fragrance of the wood is still fresh, and as it was called drift cedar, it was probably found upon the sea shore. Four years since, a person then aged ninety-four, who was born and who always lived in the village, described them as bearing, at his earliest recollection, the same worn appearance that they then did. Their duration is certainly very remarkable.

The south burial place has always remained unenclosed until within a short period, and being situated in the grounds of the public highway, it has been exposed to the intrusions of cattle and to depredations of all kinds. What the object could have been in thus locating it, at a time when land was of little value and all equally accessible, can only be conjectured. Burial grounds are considered holy by the Romish church, and the zeal and bigotry of that day was so intolerant of all papal customs, that the puritans were generally disposed to adopt the reverse of what they considered the superstitions of that church. Instead, therefore, of regarding such places as consecrated grounds, especially devoted to pious uses, they might, by selecting the public common for the burial of their dead, have intended to show their contempt for all popish rituals.

CHAPTER V.

As fast as the lands were allotted, the boundaries of the respective owners were ascertained by a regular and exact survey : fences were made of fallen trees arranged along the lines, and so actively engaged had they been in clearing fields of wood, that before the end of the year 1653, almost all the

arable land around the first place of settlement, and in the western and eastern plains, comprising a circuit of about two miles, was under some degree of cultivation. The division of the land continued to be made among the original purchasers, or their heirs and assigns, in proportion to their interests as tenants in common. The first allotment was of above six hundred acres in the whole, and the amount of each man's ascertained share or interest therein, formed the principle upon which all the future divisions were made.

The Narragansetts, in their feuds with the Montauketts, had advanced so far toward the white settlement as to kill an Indian engaged in tending their cows. To protect themselves against the danger of such incursions, more attention to train band meetings was enforced, and the officers were required to exercise their men more frequently in the use of fire arms. It was ordered by the General Court "that all men should bring their arms to meeting on the Lord's day." The beat of the drum announced the opening and closing of the business of the Court, and on Sabbath the same martial music summoned all to the duty of prayer.

In 1651, the General Court determined that a meeting house should be built, of twenty-six feet by twenty, and of eight feet posts. This building was erected on the grounds of the south burial place. Like the rest of the houses of that day, it was intended merely for temporary use. Its sides were boarded, and its roof thatched. It lasted much longer than the increasing population of the town could conveniently occupy it. In 1698, when the alternative question was taken at a town meeting, whether it should be repaired or a new one builded, it was decided to repair the old one. It was then repaired and enlarged. Previous to the building of this house, the meeting had been held at the dwelling house of Thomas Baker, for which he had received for every Lord's day the sum of eighteen pence.

Baker was also licensed to keep an ordinary or tavern, where the cold temperaments and puritanical bearings of the customers of mine host were often modified in an honest measure of foaming flip. The act had been passed by the General Court that no more than half a pint of "strong water" should be drank at one sitting among four persons, and no one was to remain drinking at unseasonable hours. Flip was the fashionable beverage of the day, and continued to be drank until orchards were in bearing, when it was supplanted by the unclassical mixture of cider and rum. Playing at draughts was a favorite amusement with the tavern idlers of that time, and in the afternoon of a rainy day, or on a winter's evening, might have been generally found that merry and mimicking fellow, John Wooley, with Sam Ben-

net, pottle deep over a game at the ordinary. Sam undertook in the Court of the three men to establish his general sobriety, but the jury had the conscience to find against him with the costs of Court, and John suffered by the decision of the Court for jeering his betters. An order was made that no rum should be supplied to the Indians, beyond such measure as should be permitted by the selectmen or the sachem; to enforce obedience to a rule of such just restraint—so honorable to the town and so kind to the Indian—a severe penalty was imposed.

During the autumn and winter, the whale was a frequent visitor on the coast. At these seasons while the weather was favorable, a constant look-out was kept from the shore. Persons were appointed by the General Court to designate and summon those who were to attend beach; and a general turn out took place, whenever the watch by a wave of his hat or coat, gave notice from a lofty pole on the banks of the beach, that the great leviathan of the deep was at hand. This enterprise of danger and amusement was then followed to much profit. The salary of the clergyman was paid in oil, and it was sent to Boston, to procure the necessary articles of West India produce, and European manufacture. A weft, as the signal given at the station pole was termed, set all the folk in motion, and a general shout was raised through the settlement. The thrasher and flax dresser in the barn, the stump burner and girdler of trees, the log roller and wolf hunter, in the fields, as the alarm reached their respective stations, all left their various employments, and skirting the intervening swamp and pond in the race to the beach, rallied upon the shore. The large canoes, which were kept near by, were taken to the margin of the sea, borne upon the shoulders of the whalers, and prepared for the launch. Each person belonging to the crew placed himself beside the boat and opposite the seat he was to occupy in rowing. A favorable chance of pushing into the sea, and avoid the breaking wave, is watched, when at the words "Now! now!" a simultaneous shove is given, each man leaps into his seat, grasps the handle of his oar, which has been placed apeak, and with the advantage of the receding wave, to the general and repeated cry of "Pull away," the boat is forced beyond the danger of the combing sea. Now, safely afloat upon the ocean, the spout of the whale directs the course of the chase, and the cry, "There she rises!" imparts added impulse to the gliding boat, from the vigorous pull of the hearty oarsmen. A call from the steersman gives early notice of the nearness of the game, to the rower in the bow, who, peaking his oar, rises from his seat, and prepares for the approaching conflict. As the bow of the boat, on the rising of the whale, comes within reach of

"her" body, the uplifted harpoon is plunged to the half in her black and shining side, when the reversed movement of the oars, at the call "Back, all!" places the boat without the reach of danger. Now is the moment of incertitude. If she remains on the surface of the water without struggling, the lance is thrown into her sides while there is appearance of life. Perhaps the harpoon has already done the work, and with one spout of blood, she has slowly and heavily rolled upon her side, a lifeless carcass. Maybe raising her flukes high above the troubled and bloody water, she has plunged with rapid motion deep into the abyss of the ocean, drawing after her many fathoms of the lengthened line, and then after the lapse of an hour, risen again to float lifeless upon the sea, or perhaps, as it oftentimes happens, when made furious by the pain of wounds, she has remained upon the surface, now thrashing the ocean into a foam with her tail, and throwing from her nostrils, to a great height, columns of blood, and then with incredible swiftness, shooting ahead just under the water, and drawing the boat after with like rapidity for miles in her course. But as life recedes, her speed gradually decreases, until the boat being pulled along side of her by the fastening line, the well aimed lance shall have reached in its plunge the last vital particle. Life being extinguished, the boats in line and fastened to each other, (the successful one having the honor of being attached to and first in distance from the prize in towing,) proceed with laboring oar towards the shore. To meet the fortunate adventurers, and to view the monster of the deep, a general gathering of all, young and old, who had not been engaged in the pursuit, appears upon the beach, and among them the Indian, claiming parts of the fin and tail, as an offering to the god of his idolatry. The little urchins, too, rolling upon the white sand, enjoy in glee the excitement of the event. In groups upon the banks, and along the strand, many are collected around the adventurers, listening to the thrice told tale of the hazards of the chase. Success, however, did not always attend the enterprise, and, more frequently, the toil of hours ended with the "fisherman's luck." Such was then the manner of the whale "design," as it was termed, and such as it has continued to be with little variation till the present time. At length the canoe was superseded by the lighter and more beautiful cedar boat, called the whale boat, which rests upon the waters with the lightness and gracefulness of the sea bird, and whose buoyancy and proportions render its movements more easy and rapid, and its passage over the surf more safe.

In 1649, the murder of a white woman was perpetrated at Southampton, and gave great alarm to the people of that

town. It was done in retaliation by the friends of a Pequot, who had been executed there as a murderer; the Indian principle of revenge, as opportunity offered, made her its victim. As the whites were at the time ignorant of the causes of the murder, and of the persons who had committed it, they were apprehensive of the existence of a general feeling of hostility among the Indians, and for some time went armed to their labors in the field, and to their place of worship on the Sabbath. The magistrates supposing the guilty to be of that nation, called upon the sachem of the Shinecock tribe to deliver them up. He being ignorant, or affecting to be so, of the authors of the crime, they could gain no information from him. Suspecting then the Montaukett tribe might have been connected with the murder, and not attributing to individual revenge, the commission of the deed, as they should have done, Gosmer and Howell, who were magistrates of the town, sent an Indian to require the attendance of Wyandanch before them. It happened that Lion Gardiner was on a visit to that sachem. The Indian messenger arrived at night, after Mr. Gardiner had retired to sleep on the couch of his friend. The arrival of the messenger was immediately noised abroad, and a general meeting of the head men and people was collected before the wigwam of the chief. The story having been related, there was a general cry that Wyandanch should not go. They believed that if he did go, he would be made to suffer for the guilty, and entertained no doubt that as soon as the magistrates had him in their possession, they would cause him to be put to death. They, therefore, directed the messenger to inform the magistrates that their sachem should not leave them; but that they would either live there or die there with him. This resolution having been declared, and silence ensuing for some time, Wyandanch arose to address them, for as yet he had only listened to the talk of his people. He inquired whether any of them had been to Southampton within the last three days; whether any of them had expressed any hostile intent against the English, and whether any one of them had any knowledge of the murder and concealed it. To these inquiries he was answered in the negative. He then proposed to awaken his friend, and submit themselves to his advice and direction. Supposing him to have been asleep during their debate, Wyandanch related the story and the talk to Gardiner; but he had already heard it; he had not slept, but expecting to be questioned, had prepared his answer. He advised Wyandanch as the only means of dispelling their causeless jealousy, which he regretted much should have been entertained of so good a friend to the English, to obey at once the mandate of the magistrate; to depart immediately, speed his way as fast as

possible to the tribe of his brother, the Shinecock sachem, and find out the murderer. That in the mean time (although as soon as the moon had risen he had intended to have returned to his island), he would remain as a hostage with the tribe for his safety. That should the magistrates bind or kill him, he would submit himself to a like punishment. To this the head men replied, "Wurrenger! Wurrenger!" It is well! It is well! And the tribe, with loud and joyous cry, shouted their thanks. With a note from Gardiner to the magistrates, Wyandanch set forth. The English were requested to give him food and drink as he went, but not to stay him, "for he had his way before him." That same night, after traveling upwards of thirty miles he discovered three Indians, who had been either principals or accessories to the murder, and brought them before the magistrates in the morning. These Indians, one of whom was a chief called the Blue Sachem, a person of much consequence, were sent to Hartford for trial, and convicted and hung.

CHAPTER VI.

In 1651, Poggatacut, sachem of *Monhansuck-Ahaquazuwamuck*, which was the Indian name of Shelter Island, died, and was succeeded by Wyandanch, his brother, as great sachem of Long Island. Poggatacut had exhibited uniformly less friendship for the English, and had generally discountenanced by his advice that preference in his brother. Beyond what was necessary to protect himself against the enmity of the white men, he had never shown them any favor. He cautiously avoided much intercourse with them, and whenever Wyandanch sought his advice, had uniformly, when the question was between the Indian and the English, sided with the former. When he could covertly protect them without danger to himself from the vengeance of the whites, the Indians were certain to receive his assistance. He therefore often prevented that punishment for their crimes which was sought at the hands of Wyandanch, by an exercise in their favor of his authority as great sachem. When a powerful brave, who resided near the Dutch, had rendered himself obnoxious by the murder of two Englishmen. William Hammond and Thomas Farrington, he prevented Wyandanch from fulfilling his promise to Mr. Gardiner of bringing to him the head of the murderer, and it was not until the death of his brother, that the sachem could redeem his word. The Indian had powerful connections, was a giant in strength, and his

friends, as well as himself, knowing the intentions of Wyandanch, were watchful of his safety. But the chief had passed his word; the doom of the man was fixed, and shortly after the death of his brother, Wyandanch accomplished the execution of his purpose, in the destruction of the murderer.

The decease of the sachem Poggatacut was an important event with the Indians. His remains were transported for burial from Shelter Island to Montauk. In removing the body, the bearers rested the bier by the side of the road leading from Sag Harbor to Easthampton, near the three mile stone, where a small excavation was made to designate the spot. From that time to the present, more than one hundred and eighty years, this memorial has remained as fresh, seemingly as if but lately made. No leaf, nor stone, nor other thing, has been suffered to remain in it. The Montaukett tribe, though reduced to a beggarly number of some ten or fifteen drunken and degraded beings, have retained to this day the memory of this event, and no individual of them now passes the spot in his wanderings, without removing whatever may have fallen into it. The place is to them holy ground, and the exhibition of this pious act does honor to the finest feelings of the human heart. The excavation is about twelve inches in depth, and eighteen in diameter, and will probably continue undisturbed, until the active spirit for improvement which is abroad shall have reached this district, and forced its way over the present barbarous road into the secluded grounds of the adjoining village.

In 1653, when Mr. Gardiner left his island in the care of his farmers and son, and removed to Easthampton, much alarm at that time, and for two or three of the following years, prevailed at this and the settlement at Southampton, from the rumor that the Dutch were inciting the Indians to a war with the English. The conduct of the Montauketts was particularly distrusted, and it was forbidden to furnish them with powder and lead. An additional supply of both those articles was sent for to Connecticut. Rum was forbidden to be sold to the Indians in any quantity. A more rigid police was adopted, and "ward and watch" kept by day and by night. The sale of provisions to the Indians was also interdicted, and they were forbidden without special leave to come within the clearings of the settlement. The burning of several buildings in Southampton was charged to the Montaukett tribe, and tended to increase the alarm. In the month of April of the same year, it was also resolved "that no Indian should come to the town unless on special occasion, and that none should come armed because that the Dutch have hired Indians against the English, and because the Indians have cast off their sachem." In June of the next year, the town

declared "that having considered the letters that came from Connecticut, wherein men are required to assist the power of England against the Dutch, we do not think ourselves called to assist the said power." The strong prejudices of the English against the Dutch, and their great desire to oust them from their possessions in this country, gave some coloring probably to these charges and complaints. The Dutch denied any connection with the Indians, inconsistent with the most friendly disposition toward the English, and whatever might have been the projects of the parties, separately or collectively, it is certain they were guilty of no overt act of hostility. The Montaukett Indians were in a situation of too much peril to add to their troubles by any misunderstanding with their English neighbors. The Narragansetts who had for some time smothered an animosity they had long felt against them on account of the exposure of the perfidy of Ninicraft, and the preference which Wyandanch had shown for the friendship of the English, had become their open enemies.

In the year 1655, the Montaukett sachem was accused by Ninigret and others of murdering, many years before, near the Long Island shore, J. W. Drake and some other Englishmen, and seizing their goods, treacherously assaulting Ninigret on Block Island, and killing many of his men after having concluded a peace, and also of having hired a witch to kill Uncas, and the Milford sachem and his son, giving therefor eight fathoms of wampum, and promising an hundred and twenty more. Wyandanch appeared before the Commissioners, denied the whole charge, and he was acquitted, his accusers not appearing, although summoned. Capt. Young, with whom he went before the Commissioners, says that both the English and Indians in those parts believed him innocent.

Ninicraft, the most powerful of the Narragansett sachems, had, by his great plausibility of conduct in his intercourse with the government of Massachusetts Bay, induced them in some degree to shut their ears against the representations unfavorable to his integrity. Mr. Gardiner endeavored, with much anxiety, to awaken the New England colonies to the danger of suffering Ninicraft to proceed in his hostile acts against the Montauketts. He considered that the defeat and destruction of Wyandanch and his people would produce a combination among the eastern and northern Indians in a bloody war against the English generally. He urged that as Wyandanch had, during the Pequot war, greatly distinguished himself against the common enemy, he was entitled to much consideration at their hands; that the war was waged by the Narragansetts against this sachem out of the hatred they

bore him for his attachment to the English, and yet he had received no acknowledgment for the glory and honor that had resulted to the nation, from his wisdom and valor in the war in which they were confederates; that while the twelve penny *Chronicle* of New England was stuffed with the names of some as if they deserved immortal fame, the right New England military worthies were left out for want of room, and the sachem Wyandanch, at the Great Swamp, and ever since their trusty friend, was forgotten, and suffered to be persecuted with fire and sword; that in fact this sachem had stood in the gap between them and a murderous Indian war, and ought to have received that honor and protection which the Jewish Mordecai received of the king. He added that he himself had been for twenty-four years in the perils of the country, and though he could not with certainty say what would thereafter happen to them, yet he feared they were to drink deeply from the cup of affliction; that he was old and out of date, but for his part would rather die a soldier in the field with honor, than be left to the mercy of the Indians; and he yet hoped they would prepare for the conflict before they were impelled to it by the destruction of the best men in the country.

The solicitations of Mr. Gardiner, however, did not avail. The Commissioners at Boston summoned some of the Narragansett sachems before them, but declined or neglected to interfere. Had his advice been followed, and the Narragansetts reduced to full submission, the war which afterwards took place with that nation under Philip, had not probably happened. The government of Rhode Island communicated to the government of Massachusetts that Ninicraft, "without any cause that he doth so much as allege, fell upon the Long Island Indians, our friends and tributaries, and killed many of them, and took others prisoners and would not restore them, and that he had drawn down to his aid many of the Mohawks."

Wyandanch having learned that Ninicraft was upon Block Island, proceeded there with a formidable force, and arrived about midnight; when coming upon the Narragansetts, he slaughtered about thirty, two of whom were personages of great note, and one the nephew of the sachem. Subsequently, Ninicraft passed over to Montauk, burned the wigwams, sacked the barns, destroyed the corn fields, killed many of the principal warriors of the tribe, and made captive fourteen women, among whom was the only daughter of Wyandanch. Tradition has it that at the time of the descent of the enemy, the nuptial festivities on the occasion of the marriage of this daughter of the sachem, were celebrating, and the Indians less watchful than usual, were surprised in

the midst of the revels of the night. Among the warriors who were slain, fell the bridegroom of the youthful princess. The deep affliction of the father at the loss of his daughter can well be imagined, and the ardent affection which he maintained for his child was in part evidenced in the present he made upon her redemption.

The Commissioners, at the solicitation of Mr. James and Mr. Gardiner, now sent military supplies to the towns of Easthampton and Southampton, and to the persecuted Indians; and employed an armed vessel, commanded by Capt. Young, to prevent the passage of Ninicraft's canoes across the sound. They also sent a small force into the country of the Narragansetts, but it was rendered ineffectual by the incompetence of the command. In 1656, the Massachusetts Commissioners declined to render any further assistance, and aid was for a short time given by the colonies of Hartford and New Haven. Wyandanch, in the same year, visited the Commissioners, at Boston, and in consideration of the distresses which had befallen them, obtained a remission of the tribute which had been exacted of him since the Pequot war. He was now left to contend alone against a vastly superior force, and the war was continued between the Narragansetts and Montauketts with great cruelty; but as it was confined to the Indians, few of the events are known. Long before the cessation of hostilities, Gardiner had redeemed the daughter of Wyandanch from captivity, and returned her to her father.

On the 22d of May, 1658, Wyandanch, by writing, conferred on the people of Easthampton the privilege of pasturing their cattle on Montaukett for seven years, and the refusal of the purchase of the land in case the Indians should wish to sell it. This was the first contract of the whites with the Indians relating to Montaukett; that peninsula consisted of about nine thousand acres, commencing at Neapeag, the termination of the first purchase of the whites, and extending easterly to the point, called by the Indians, *Wampomomon*. There was comprised within this tract a large extent of excellent land, well wooded with heavy timber of the white and black oaks. The annual burning of the woods and marshes, in the month of March, kept down the underbrush, afforded fresh feed for the deer, and enabled the Indians more easily to prepare the ground for corn, which they raised in great quantity. There are a number of extensive plains, but the general character of the land is elevated and hilly, without being much broken, resembling, in a remarkable degree, the agitated and swollen waves of the ocean. Hence the name Montaukett, which signifies "hilly country." The land is well watered with springs and

fresh ponds, and one of the latter covers not less than five hundred acres, to a depth in some places of from fifteen to twenty feet. Upon the north side of this tract were fought the many fierce and bloody battles instigated by the animosity which had ever subsisted between the Indian inhabitants and the Narragansetts. The many extensive swamps rendered the country peculiarly fit for Indian warfare, offering to the attacked places of seclusion and defense. On the highest hill to the north of and contiguous to a pond called, by the Indians, Konkhonganok, and by the English, Fort Pond, is a burial ground, where was situated the new fort of the sachem, Wyandanch. Another fort had stood at the western extremity of the land, and near a pond called, by the natives, Quannontowunk, and by the whites, Fresh Pond, but had then gone to decay. The burial place at Burying Ground Point, on the western shore of Great Pond, and after it the one at Fort Pond, are the most ancient in the land. There are others to the east of Great Pond and to the west of Fort Pond. The Indian names of places in this region have been either superseded by the English synonym or entirely forgotten. It is only by much research that a few can be recovered.

During the years 1658 and 1659, a sickness prevailed among the Indians throughout Long Island, which occasioned great mortality. Nearly two-thirds of them were cut off. The diminution of their race, which had so speedily and extensively followed the appearance of the strangers on their coast, was more rapidly accelerated by disease, and those of them who had escaped the design of the white man, and the result of their own unhappy dissensions, were stricken down indefinitely by the pestilence. Wyandanch was among those who at this time perished, not however under the calamitous disease which had so much thinned the ranks of his warriors and destroyed whole families of his people, but by the stealthy administration of poison. Having now lost their chief, upon whom they had so long relied, and being reduced to great extremity by sickness, the Montauketts sought the protection of the people of Easthampton. By them they were hospitably received, and kindly relieved and protected.

Wyandanch had in 1659, the last year of his life, conveyed by deed to Samuel Willis, of Hartford, then a principal personage in the government of Connecticut, the island now called Plum Island, situated at the western entrance to Gardiner's Bay, and in the same year, he had transferred to Lion Gardiner the territory now called Smithtown, in gratitude for the many kind and friendly offices which he had extended to him during their acquaintance. He left a wife whose name was

Wuch-i-kit-taw-but, and two children, a son and a daughter. It was that daughter whom Gardiner ransomed from captivity. *Weon-com-bone* was the name of the son. Wyandanch admitted no equal in the government of his people, but stood alone chief of the tribe. While he exercised the sovereignty as great sachem of Long Island, his powerful mind was more generally its own counsellor; and though he suffered most severely in the wars with the Narragansetts, his proud, independent spirit would yield to no terms derogatory to the prowess of his nation. When his people in 1653, from the intrigues of unfriendly Indians and abandoned whites, were, to the great alarm of the neighboring settlements, for a short time in open rebellion to his government, such was his extraordinary mastery over their passions that, undaunted and unaided, he soon recalled them to their duty and allegiance. In his death, the English lost a warm and devoted friend. His attachment for the whites, though he sometimes suffered from them great provocation, never wavering, and the commanding influence which he possessed over the Indian tribes of the island, was ever exercised to prevent any hostile movements against them.

CHAPTER VII.

THE expenses attendant the organization and government of the town in its civil and criminal administration, in the allotment and distribution of lands, in the opening of highways, in the erection of public buildings, in the procurement and support of religious instruction and general education, and many minor charges necessary consequent, were assessed and collected from all inhabitants who were owners of the soil, in proportion to their respective rights and interests therein. These were the first objects of pecuniary charges upon the settlers, but in a few years those calamities to which humanity is liable, added to the list the tax of pauperism, which was levied and collected in like manner. Lands only were first made subject to taxation. The taxes were first regulated by the General Court, and collected by the constable who was also authorized to levy the amount upon goods or lands in case of refusal of payment. As money was to be had for many years but in very limited amounts, payment of taxes, of mutual engagements, and of the judgments of the Court for debts and damages, were made in wheat, wampum, cattle, whale oil, and Indian corn, at fixed prices.

In 1654, the value of wheat was fixed at four and six pence per bushel. This was termed "good merchantable pay," being such payment as was received by merchants in exchange for articles of foreign merchandize.

For many years, one pauper only was chargeable to the town—a wandering female who, without relations and without friends, was admitted to their hospitality, and subsequently, in sickness and misfortune, received their humane assistance. Having no physician regularly settled among themselves, their kindness was extended to her in the procurement at the public charge, for many years and at great expense, of medical aid from New York, and the Dutch settlements on the island.

The labor necessary for the opening and construction of highways was exacted of each individual assessed, without commutation, and the lands so appropriated were held as the property of the town. The common law disposition was not adopted, and the labor being rigidly enjoined, the highways were earlier cleared of timber, bushes and stumps, than the lands of individuals. Over most of the highway, cattle were not permitted to feed or loiter. They were hired out by the proprietors to individuals as unallotted land for mowing and pasturing; more securely to protect them against trespassers, fences were permitted to be placed across those leading from the main street. Every individual was required, in 1654, to remove within a limited time the stumps then remaining to the middle of the road opposite his possessions, and few of these obstructions remained after that period. The highways were marked previous to the allotment of lands, and a public road was laid out along the line of each general division.

These general divisions were divided into lots, bounded in part by a highway, and generally each containing the portion of one individual; but where this portion was small a number was joined in one allotment, which was afterwards subdivided among the several owners. These divisions and allotments continued to be made at intervals, at first by an order of the proprietors at a general meeting. After the patent was granted, and until a division of the most valuable part of the first purchase was completed, they were made by the direction of the trustees at their legal meetings, when also surveyors and commissioners were appointed to effect the partition. The last division made was a tract of land called Alewife Brook Neck. The lands which still remain undivided were not considered of much value. They are all held in tenancy in common, and are subject yet to allotment among the heirs or assigns of the original purchasers whenever any of them may require it. Books were provided for

registering each man's allotment of land. The first allotment was of house lots, of from eight to twelve acres, lying along the main street in regular succession; to these additions were made as their wants required. The additions and all sales and purchases were regularly entered into a book appropriated for that purpose, forming for many years a continuous record of each man's interest in the settlement. Whenever any one disposed of his land, it was on the record subtracted from his possessions, and added to those of the purchaser. By this means, a just assessment was readily made of each man's taxes.

For the purpose of depasturing and tillage, large tracts were enclosed in a circular fence, and persons were appointed at the General Court to apportion to each settler the quantity of fence he was to build and keep in repair. First the western plains, and afterwards the eastern plains, were improved for this purpose, and continued to be so until they were allotted in severalty in the proportion of each man's right. Within these limits, under the care of a keeper, the cows of the town and the cattle fattening grazed at large. The Mill Plain was for many years in part cultivated for garden purposes, each family having sufficient for its wants laid out within district limitations, but all being enclosed in one circular fence. This manner of fencing was generally adopted throughout the colonial settlements, and they were authorized by statute to enforce regulations in relation to its erection and support. The highway act still retains this authorization, though the mode of fencing, the cause of the fundamental enactment, has long since ceased to exist. The learned revisers retained the clause probably from ignorance of its history, and the future historian may refer to the statutes as authority, that at the period of the revision all private gardens were enclosed with circular fences, and particularly regulated by the laws of town meetings. In this manner, we find errors of a more important nature creeping into history.

One of the greatest cares of the settlers after providing for their families a comfortable establishment, was the erection of a school house, and the engagement of teachers. At first the teacher received £30 sterling a year, and to induce a general attendance at school of the children of the settlement, a small part only of the whole charge was fixed upon the scholars, and the residue collected by a general tax upon the inhabitants. Charles Barnes, one of the first settlers, was for a number of years the instructor. He was the son of William Barnes, a gentleman of Eastwinch, in the County of Norfolk, England, who died in 1663, leaving him a portion of his estate. Barnes was succeeded by James Holdworth in '73, and he by Peter Benson, of the West Riding of Yorkshire,

on Long Island, who was employed at the increased salary of £50 sterling a year. In 1682, the school consisted of twenty-nine scholars. The great importance of education and the necessity of competent teachers, was a subject which had very seriously occupied the minds of the magistrates; and their efforts, seconded by those of the inhabitants, had been sedulously and successfully devoted to the maintenance of a sufficient school. These efforts, which for a series of years were sustained at the charge of the town, gave such impulse to the desire of instruction, that the school house was seldom vacant. The standard of education was not at this period very high, but it was at least equal to that which prevailed over a great part of the country, and fully sufficient for the transaction of business in the ordinary concerns of life. Limited as their sources of knowledge were, it was through them that this small community became, as the public records abundantly attest them, to have been so well acquainted with their political rights, and so watchful in sustaining them. So deeply impressed were they with the importance of education to the prosperity of the colony, so sensibly did they feel that the efforts of their little community were altogether inadequate to provide even within its own small circle the proper means of intellectual improvement, that the people of this town, as early as 1678, called the attention of the established government to the importance of providing capable teachers. A resolution in the following words was proposed and adopted in that year, at a public meeting of the inhabitants. "It was agreed by a majority vote to refer the necessary employment of teachers, to the right honorable the governor, and Court of Assizes." No public provisions, however, appear to have been made. Sir Edmund Andross was at that time governor, under the Duke of York, and doubtless the members from the Riding zealously represented to him the wishes of their constituents. But a subject so vitally important to the welfare of the country, and to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people, seems to have been treated with negligence, if not with indifference. At the session of the General Assembly in 1702, Lord Cornbury recommended the establishment of schools, but the jealousy of the house of the intentions of this bigoted papist, was such that his recommendation was not seconded by them. Until the administration of Governor Cosby, no laws were passed relating to public instruction. The schools of the town continued to be a subject of special interest, and in 1784, an academy for classical instruction was erected, being the first instituted under the State. As early as 1711, and in the following years, when a classical education was not easily obtained, and the number of graduates at the few colleges

then established was very limited, Harvard and Yale numbered several from this town in the list of their students and graduates.

The town continued a government under their own voluntary unwritten compact, subject to the supervision of the General Court appointed by the assemblage of people, independent of the other settlements for eight or nine years. In 1655, they entered into the following written and more formal social compact:

“For as much as it has pleased the Almighty God by the
“wise dispensation of his providence so to order and dispose
“of things that we, the inhabitants of Easthampton, are now
“dwelling together, the Word of God requires that in order
“to maintain the peace and union of such a people, there
“should be an orderly and a decent government estab-
“lished, according to God, to order and dispose as occasion
“shall require. We do, therefore, sociate and conjoin our-
“selves and successors to be one town or corporation, and do
“for ourselves and successors and such as shall be adjoined
“to us at any time hereafter, enter into combination and
“confederation together to maintain and preserve the purity
“of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ which we now pos-
“sess as also the discipline of the church, which, according to
“the truth of said gospel, is now practised among us; as also
“in our civil affairs to be guided and governed by such laws
“and orders as shall be made according to God, and which,
“by the vote of the major part, shall be in force among us.
“Furthermore, we do engage ourselves that in all votes for
“choosing officers or making orders, that it be according to
“conscience and our best light. And also we do engage our-
“selves by this combination to stand to and maintain the au-
“thority of the several officers of the town in their deter-
“minations and actions, according to their orders and laws,
“that either are, or shall be made, not swerving therefrom.
“In witness whereof,” &c., &c.

In 1655, a committee of two persons, and again in 1657, a committee of three persons was sent to Connecticut, to treat with the magistracy concerning placing the settlement under the protection of that colony. The latter committee consisted of Lion Gardiner, Thomas Baker and John Hand. They were instructed to discuss this matter with the authorities of Connecticut, but to do no act which should commit their constituents in any manner before submitting to them the result of the conference. This cautiousness of acting, was a prominent trait in all their political connections, and they generally put off to a future day a conclusion which

was not immediately required. This seems to have been, in a great degree, characteristic of the puritans. It is to be seen in the conduct of the Bay Company, and also that of Connecticut, at the same period. Governor Winthrop says: "Being wary, we consented doubtingly. * * It was agreed "to negatively. * * Being doubtful, we returned answer "without determining of either side." It was their settled policy to do nothing in haste which could be put off for reflection.

The community formed, as already related, appears to have been well contented with the management of their own affairs, and to have at first in fact preferred to keep aloof from any connection with a superior power by which their importance would be absorbed, and their independence controlled. But they soon found themselves exposed to the hostility of the Dutch in the war raging between that nation and the English, and to the intrusion of foreign Indians who, seeking to gratify in blood their ancient animosities, were prowling about the territory of the Montauketts. With these dangers, they were little able to contend. They therefore yielded to the necessity of a union with Connecticut, and in this year 1657, submitted themselves to her jurisdiction so far as to be entitled to her protection. The union continued until 1662, when a charter was granted to Connecticut by the second Charles. Until that time, although this town was represented by a deputy in her councils from 1658, no political jurisdiction was exercised over the town; her acts were merely advisory. The first deputy was John Mulford. He was among the first settlers, and executed the office of selectman, and subsequently of justice of the peace, for many successive years. From 1659 to 1660, Robert Bond was deputy, and subsequently Thomas Baker.

In 1657, a charge of witchcraft was preferred against Goody Garlick, the wife of Joshua Garlick, an inhabitant of the town. It was the cause of great excitement, and the charge was attempted to be sustained by numerous affidavits. No less than five men and eight women deposed to facts which, in their estimation, constituted the crime of witchcraft, of which Mrs. Garlick was accused. The malignant eye, the sickness and the death of cattle, the languishment and decease of children, the torments of the pricking of pins, the infliction of pains upon the well and sick, the blasts of the atmosphere by droughts, and unseasonable frosts upon the growing corn, and the extraordinary medical effects produced by simples in the cure of the sick, were all subjects of accusation. The usual accompaniment of apparitions, black cats and harlequin devils, which had alarmed and tormented the subjects of witchery, were not omitted. Much debate arose in the

General Court, before which the charge against Goody Garlick had been made, as to the manner of proceeding in the case. The statute of the 5th of Elizabeth against witchcraft, was not accessible to them, and their being no demonological jurisconsult among the magistrates, they determined by a majority vote to refer the case to the judicial tribunals of Hartford. These tribunals had arraigned and executed a witch in 1647, and having thus had practical knowledge, were, in the opinion of the General Court, competent to sit in judgment upon Goody Garlick. She was therefore ordered to be taken to Connecticut, by Thomas Baker and John Hand, "for the trial of the cause of witchcraft, of which she is suspected." That she was ever taken there, does not appear from the records. Possibly the Court thought better of the subject, as there was those among them who were desirous of saving her from the fate of this delusion. Mr. Gardiner charged upon one of the witnesses the death of her own child, the cause of which she attributed to the witchcraft of Goody Garlick. Both the women had been employed in his household on his island. The witness had, for wampum-peag, taken an Indian child to nurse, and thus, for the love of money, starved her own. To escape the odium and criminalty of her conduct, she took advantage of the unjust suspicion against Goody Garlick to charge her with its death. This and other facts might have led to a reconsideration of her case, as nothing more of the affair is known. We are not to infer any gross ignorance on the part of these people, from this delusion which had overcome them. If a majority of them believed in the existence of witches and apparitions, what people in that age did not admit the reality of these fictitious beings. Every country, both earlier and later, was more or less afflicted with this absurd and frightful superstition. The accounts of trials and punishments for witchcraft in Massachusetts, long afterwards, exceed all rational credulity; and were they not attested by judicial records and contemporary historians, such horrors would not at this day be believed. In England, the acts against witchcraft were not repealed until 1726, during the latter part of the reign of Queen Anne, and even some of the most eminent civilians were then infected with a belief in the reality of the offense.

The buildings at first erected having answered their temporary purpose, others of a more permanent character were now constructed. They were built after the same fashion of those in New England. Their outward form and architecture much resembled the salt box which hung in the kitchen of every house, and which was humorously said to have formed the model of the builders throughout the New England set-

tlements. They were undoubtedly formed after the style of the Netherlands, where many of the puritans had temporarily resided. Some of this class of buildings are still to be seen in the early settlements along the eastern coast. They bore all a strong likeness to one another, and seemed to be the cast of one brain. The roof was peaked—one side extending down to within seven or eight feet of the ground, the other shortened sufficiently to admit of two stories of windows at the front. To gain a southerly exposure, the buildings were generally faced in that direction, and hence in many cases presented a gable, and sometimes even the rear to the street. The windows were small, filled with diamond shaped panes of glass set in sashes of lead, opening outwards upon hinges. Some of these houses are still to be seen with their peculiar exterior, though, in a small degree, modernized by alterations of sashes and glazing. The buildings were all of wood, and soon acquire, by exposure to the weather, a sombre hue, which gave to the village a gloomy aspect. Along the street and around the houses, fences were made of pales of from six to eight feet in height, firmly set in the ground. They were fashioned from large timber rifted, and were intended to afford security against Indian aggression, and the approach of the voracious wolf. The fences were continued long after the occasion of their first erection had ceased, and were to be seen more than a hundred years subsequent around the farm yards and gardens.

The interior of the houses varied in finish with the ability of the owner, but, in most of them, the partition walls were fancifully paneled with wainscoting, after the fashion of the days of Elizabeth and Charles. The dark blue paint, which covered the panel work, was long the prescribed mode. The chimney was of enormous dimensions, with a most capacious fireplace in the dining room and kitchen. On each side of the fire, and along each jamb, was placed a bench under the chimney flue, affording a comfortable seat on a winter's evening to some six or eight boys or men, without interfering with the New Year log. New Year's Eve was kept here as merry as Christmas in England—the latter holy day being eschewed by the Presbyterians as smelling too strong of high church and popery. The old year often left a merry set still sitting upon the benches with a New Year's log in full glow, and the mug of flip, the pipe, and the song, often kept the hearts of the revellers merry until morning twilight. [Among those most frequent at these merry makings and husking frolics, was Daniel Fairfield, who with a sober countenance, bore a leering eye under his slouched broad brimmed beaver, and dressed in a russet grey jerkin, with shorts, and galligaskins, tied with leather thongs over his broad toed shoes, was the

merry-andrew of the village. He was a stranger, but his usefulness as a laborer at all work, gained him liberty of domicile. Daniel liked right well these jollifications, and as he could sing the ditties of the day, he was ever a welcome companion. The doleful distich of Barbara Allen, and the bloody tale of Robin Hood, were the favorite songs, and they were often listened to of a night, by the youngsters, till the furtive glance over the shoulder, told the mental, if not the visual presence of elves, witches and goblins, which were known to be abroad about that period of darkness. With the females, Daniel made himself a favorite, by being ever ready to assist in drawing a bucket of water at the well, in preparing fuel for the oven, and in bearing messages for all the gossips of the village. With the boys he was a hail-fellow, as he was bold and adroit in all manner of mischief. He was esteemed somewhat simple, and much of his misbehaviour was therefore overlooked by the grave seniors, though he sometimes met with reproof and punishment. For joining the school boys in rebellion against the government of their master, Barnes, whose heels were placed in juxtaposition with his head, he was called before the town Court, and for presuming upon the kind notice of the damsels, to venture beyond the bounds of due decorum, he was fined and banished. The following entry precedes his banishment. "It is ordered, that when Daniel Fairfield's time is out in May next, that whosoever afterwards shall entertain him, shall be bound in a bond of £20 for his good behaviour, and said Daniel be subject to the law." On the centre panel of the wainscoting, above the fireplace, was conspicuously hung, when he was not absent from home, the good man's watch, and also the keys to the outer buildings, all labeled and marked for their respective fastenings. Above these was suspended upon rough wooden brackets, the long old English fowling piece, whose faithful trigger never clicked, but to execute the aim of its owner, in the death of a deer, a wild cat, or a wolf. No western hunter ever loved his rifle more dearly than some of our settlers, and their descendants their old duck guns. In the corner of the room was the cupboard, within which, upon the circular, brilliantly painted shelves, was displayed so as to produce the most striking effect, the various table ware, comprising china of variegated hues and multiform patterns, and all those fanciful articles of domestic economy, so gratifying to the eyes of the frugal and thrifty housewife. To these were added at a later day, the silver mug, tankard, and cream cup. The articles of furniture were somewhat limited, but in the best rooms and closets, were generally exhibited upon the walls and shelves, the plentiful wardrobe and bedding, which unwearied female industry had made and accumulated, as well

for the adornment, as the comfort of the present, and the future generation. It was the noontide duty to sand neatly the floor, and prepare the room for the reception of afternoon visitors. On one side of the fireplace, stood the master's arm-chair, and on the other, the rocking chair of the mistress. Around the walls were arranged, black straight-backed chairs with flag, or covered bottoms—these, after the lapse of an hundred and fifty years, are again the fashionable tenants of the boudoir and saloon. On the walls were hung pictures in print of Cain's crime and punishment, or illustrations of the career of the Prodigal Son, or some other design of Scripture story. The custom of smoking was general among men, and the pipe, when not in use, occupied the little stockhole in the chimney near the fireplace. On a plot, in front, or at the side of the house, the little flower garden with its various plants in beds, curiously arranged, exhibited the taste, care, and diligence of the matron or her daughters, while near by, the little patch of tobacco of luxuriant growth promised an abundant supply for the master's winter store.

CHAPTER VIII.

CONNECTICUT having, in 1662, procured a patent or charter from the King, the town of Easthampton was encouraged to make an application for a similar favor, and in the same year, at the General Court, Mr. James and Mr. Gardiner were appointed a committee to consult with Southampton upon the subject. These towns then held their possessions by virtue only of an Indian deed, and prior settlement. They became uneasy with regard to their title. The Earl of Sterling had relinquished his claim to the island, and it was then open to future grant from the crown. We are not informed of any further step in the matter, but, in 1663, Mr. James and others were appointed a committee to meet committees from Southampton and Southold to consider the propriety of establishing a government composed of the three towns. They probably abandoned the undertaking without any further proceeding, as they soon after submitted to, and without doubt encouraged, a construction of the patent of Connecticut embracing Long Island within her jurisdiction. The legal jurisdiction being now assumed and admitted, a code of civil government was received from the General Assembly convened at Hartford.

Upon the death of Wyandanch, his only son, Weoncom-

bone, was acknowledged, by the Indians and the whites, the rightful successor to the sovereignty exercised by his father over Long Island, and he is accordingly styled in the records of that period, sachem of Pamanack, the Indian name of Long Island. His mother, under the name of the sachem or Sunq Squa, (dowager queen, the term would seem to imply,) exercised, in conjunction with her son or in his name, some kind of authority in the management of the Indian concerns. He was then in the nineteenth year of his age.

The Narragansetts now became more bold in their depredations upon the Long Island Indians, and destroyed great numbers of them. Six of the Montauketts were surprised and killed by Ninigret on Gull Island, and the insecurity of their possessions on Montaukett induced them, in 1660, to transfer them to the people of Easthampton, and remove near that village for protection. Upon application of the Indians, the Commissioners directed the inhabitants to defend them against the Narragansetts, if they came within two miles of the settlement. On the sixth day of August of that year, therefore, the Sunq Squa, wife of Wyandanch, of late years deceased, and Weoncombone, son of the said deceased, with the consent of Lion Gardiner and his son David, who had been appointed by Wyandanch guardians of his son, conveyed the land called Montaukett, from the farthest end eastward, called Womponomon, to the extremest bounds westward, called Neapeag, to Thomas Baker, Robert Bond, Thomas James, and thirty other inhabitants of Easthampton, for the consideration of £100, lawful money to be paid in two equal annual payments in Indian corn, or good wampum at six-a-penny. The Indians reserved to themselves the right, if they saw fit at some future day, to repossess themselves of and again live upon the land. In 1661, the 11th of February, the former deed having been for some cause partially revoked, the same parties of the first part, by a further deed in consideration of love and affection, conveyed to the parties aforesaid, of the second part, a parcel of the aforesaid land of Montaukett, commencing at the western end, at a fresh pond in a beach, on the west side, and at the old Indian fort on the east side, and extending eastwardly to the new fort, at Fort Pond. The grant was preceded by a recital, that

“Whereas, of late years, there having been sore distress
 “and calamities befallen us by reason of the cruel opposi-
 “tion and violence of our deadly enemy, Ninicraft, sachem
 “of Narragansett, whose cruelty hath proceeded so far as to
 “take away the lives of many of our dear friends and rela-
 “tions, so that we were forced to fly from Montaukett for

“shelter to our beloved friends and neighbors of Easthampton, whom we found to be friendly in our distress, and whom we must ever own and acknowledge as instruments under God for the preservation of our lives and the lives of our wives and children to this day, and of the lands of Montaukett from the hands of our enemy, and since our coming amongst them, the relieving us in our extremities from time to time, and now at last we find the said inhabitants of Easthampton our deliverers, cordial and faithful in their former covenants, leaving us freely to our own liberty to go or stay, being ready to perform all conditions in the aforesaid agreement.”

To prevent cattle from passing beyond the eastern boundary, a fence was to be made by the English on the north, and by the Indians on the south of the pond, during the term that corn was on the ground. The Indians reserved the right of firewood, and of locating their houses westerly of the Fort Pond, and the deer and canoes that might come on shore on the north side. The former gift of the old sachem of one-half of the whales that should be cast ashore was confirmed to Lion Gardiner and Thomas James, and the other half was given to the inhabitants generally. The Indians were to have liberty of land at Easthampton, should they at any time be driven from Montaukett.

In 1662, the small pox prevailed among the Indians to so great an extent, and with such mortality, as to threaten their entire extinction. The white people were greatly exposed, and to prevent the calamity extending to their settlement, the General Court passed an ordinance that no Indian should be suffered to visit the town except by permission, and no white man should go to their wigwams under penalty of £5, and a whipping. Among the victims to this then most dreaded and fatal contagion was Weoncombone, the young sachem, the only lineal male descendant of the great chief Wyandanch. He died at the age of twenty-two. Whether his mother or sister long survived him, is not known; but as they are not thereafter mentioned, it is probable that they also perished by this loathsome disease. The blood of the chief who had been for many years a terror to his enemies and a benefactor to his friends, whose influence and authority had been exercised during life over probably a million and a half of the human race, like that of the Mingo brave, ran not in the veins of a living being.

Whether the labors of Mr. James had been successful in converting any of the Indians, is not known; but a fair presumption is from a knowledge of their religious state at a much later period, that a great body of them with their chief

retained their ancient faith. That he had bestowed great labor in their instruction, appears from a letter of Gov. Lovelace, dated November 16th, 1668, thanking him for the pains he had taken, and begging him to transmit the catechism he had drawn up in the Indian language for their use, and to translate and forward some chapters of the Bible, that he might send them to England to be printed.

White intruders upon the Montaukett lands, who asserted their right by virtue of Indian grants, procured, as it was believed, under false representations and fictitious claims of indebtedness, were beginning to give the inhabitants much trouble and uneasiness. Their claims were considered by the holding mortgages upon the land, and were alleged to have preceded its purchase by the people of Easthampton. The settlers having no means of knowing their number and amount, were thus liable to be continually harassed. From the Indians, they could gain no accurate information regarding these claims. Their thoughtless and imprudent conduct in entering into engagements which were immediately forgotten, constantly exposed them to gross impositions. At this period, a claim by John Scott, an inhabitant of the town, and John Ogden, of Northside, in Southampton, was set up to some part of the lands by virtue of a debt contracted by Wyandanch, the late sachem.

Much confusion and excitement appears to have prevailed in the political proceedings of the town. The inhabitants hesitated for some time between the separate government, and a full union with Connecticut. The former, even if they could obtain a patent, would, in respect to strength and protection, be less desirable than the latter, and the liberal provisions of the charter of Connecticut suited their republican predilections. The idea of a separate government, however, presented great attractions, and they proceeded so far as to raise £150 on their part to pay for a charter, of which £50 was chargeable upon the lands of Montaukett. The project was never consummated, and, in 1664, the town appointed a committee to proceed to Hartford, "to debate about their mutual concernment, but to conclude upon nothing, understanding that the governor would come over." Encouragement was given to a construction of the patent of Connecticut, including Long Island in their jurisdiction, and in the month of June, the governor and three others came upon the island, and proceeded to organize courts and establish rules relative to the management of their general affairs. At the same time, a code of civil government was received from the General Assembly convened at Hartford. Before these arrangements could be carried into effect, an expedition fitted out by the Duke of York, to whom his brother, Charles II., had granted

Long Island, upon its surrender by the Earl of Sterling, together with the country occupied by the Dutch, arrived before New York. Upon a demand of Colonel Nicolls, the Dutch governor after some preliminary arrangements, surrendered the country. Governor Wintthrop, who was present, after seeing the letters patent to the Duke of York, relinquished the intended jurisdiction of Connecticut, and gave information to the English on the island of what had been done. Thus terminated the political connection between this town and Connecticut, which had, in one form or another, been continued from its first settlement. The change does not seem to have been approved by the people, and they reluctantly submitted to the new order of things. With the inhabitants of New England, they were closely assimilated by the ties of blood, of habits, of religion, and of political ideas.

At a very early day, sometimes a migratory disposition, and sometimes the prospect of a better condition, induced the removal of families and individuals, into other and distant portions of the country. Some families emigrated to New Jersey, where their names are still found, and have been, and are borne by many patriotic and distinguished citizens. Removals have since been frequent, to the counties of Orange, Ulster, Dutchess, and Rensselaer, and to other counties of the state, and not a few of the emigrants, or their descendants, have gained honorable distinction in literary, judicial, and legislative stations. Besides these removals to remote quarters, many of the inhabitants left the village and located themselves in other parts of the territory of the town. The foundation of the village of Amagansette, on the east, and Wayunscutt, on the west, were laid out at an early day, and before 1700, they had nearly reached their present size. The Indian owner of the former was *Way-un-scult*, and of the latter, *Am-eag-an-sell*. The settlement of Acabonack, and the Springs, and of the hamlets Jericho, Georgika, and Appaquogue, was also made during the earliest years of the existence of the town.

In the latter part of the year, 1663, Lion Gardiner had deceased. During his residence of eight or nine years in Easthampton, he had been active in composing the affairs, and promoting the quiet, harmony and prosperity of the community. With the natives, to whom he was well known, by an intimate acquaintance of many years, his influence was constantly exercised, in infusing into their minds favorable impressions of the honest motives, and kind disposition of their new neighbors. In this he was eminently successful, and during their whole intercourse with the natives, the whites were never compelled to resort to arms. Mutual offices

of friendship, were in constant practice between them. Some misunderstandings did occasionally exist, but none greater than often happen between contiguous civilized communities. Their intercourse was, in fact, on the most friendly footing, and the whites acquired such assistance in the labors of cultivation, and their domestic employments, as rendered in a great degree unfelt the inconveniences that were experienced in all the settlements of that period from the want of white laborers. The profession of arms, in which he had spent the earlier part of his life, inured him to hardships, and prepared him to contend successfully with the fatigues and hazards of life in the wilderness. He had, no doubt, carefully studied and watched the manners of the Indians; he understood their language, and by his integrity, decision and bravery, which were characteristic of his command of the fort of Saybrook, and of his residence on his island, he gained their love and admiration. His home and table were ever free, and he was generous and kind as well to the stranger as his companions. Governor Winthrop, General Mason, and Sir Richard Saltonstall, made favorable mention of his hospitality at the fort, and acknowledge with the most cordial feelings his acquaintance and friendship. Mason says, that on his return from the Pequot expedition, "he was nobly entertained by Lieut. Gardiner, who was chief commander at Saybrook Fort, with many great guns, and received from him many courtesies." The easy access to the protection of his roof, though often abused by the worthless, who took advantage of it to deplete upon his property, was never withheld from those who sought it. While at Saybrook, his generosity was evinced in the redemption, from the Pequot Indians, of two maidens, who had been captured in the attack upon Wethersfield. He clothed and fed them, and restored them to their friends, at his own private expense, without asking or receiving any remuneration. With all the frankness, gaiety and bravery of an old soldier, he possessed the zeal, piety and prudent forethought which marked the character of the puritans. From all who knew him he received favor and respect. Kind and amiable in his social intercourse, he was yet exact in the performance of his own duties, and rigid and persevering in requiring the discharge of those due from others. Open to persuasion, and yielding to the wishes of his friends, when the gratification of their desires did not compromise the integrity of his conduct, he was yet firm and decided in the maintenance of his independence and honor. Though comparatively few memorials of him are left, yet they abundantly show, that as a man, he was honest, intelligent and resolute; as a soldier, brave, able and generous. The respect and veneration of his townsmen was shown in their courteous desig-

nation of him, and in their unsolicited readiness to punish what might be deemed offensive. When during the apprehended Dutch war, an individual in the fervor of his patriotism, declared that he would even strike Mr. Gardiner, if he should help the Dutch, it met the censure of the General Court.

The patent of Gardiner's Island, granted by the deputy of the Earl of Sterling, erected it into a separate and independent plantation, with the power to the grantee "to execute and put in practice, such laws for church and civil government, as are agreeable to God, the King, and the practice of the country." The island was not connected in its civil concerns with Easthampton; the residence of its owner on his estate in that town, gave him a voice and interest in its affairs. Mr. Gardiner, by his last will, devised all of his estate to his wife—implying a confidence in her judgment and discretion which was not misplaced. His age at his death is not known; while in command at Saybrook Fort, he called himself an old soldier, and in 1660, in his *Relation of the Pequot War*, he mentioned that he had grown old.

Mrs. Gardiner, whose maiden name was Willemsen, was born in the town of Woerden, in Holland, of highly respectable parents. She survived her husband only two years. What little can be gathered from the records, shows that she was a woman of an enlightened and liberal mind, and that she received the marked consideration of the people. She bequeathed to her son, David, her island, which she entailed, and to her daughter, Mary, and grandchild, Elizabeth, all her possessions in Easthampton. Her daughter, Elizabeth, who was doubtless the first child of British parentage born in the colony of New York, died in February, 1657, at the early age of sixteen years. Her daughter, Mary, died in June, 1727, at the very advanced age of eighty-nine years. They were interred in the south burial ground in Easthampton.

David, the first white child born in Connecticut, was probably educated in England, where, in the parish of St. Margaret, Westminster, he married Mary Lerringham, on the 4th of June, 1657. In a petition to Governor Dongan about 1683, setting forth his grievances in having his estate joined to Long Island, by the General Assembly, without his knowledge or consent, he states that his father settled Gardiner's Island in 1639, "before there was any one Englishman seated on Long Island." He afterwards received from Governor Dongan the last patent of the island, erecting it a lordship and manor, and confirming and extending its privileges. His plantation being separate and distinct, it does not appear that he often acted on the affairs of the town. He died July 10th, 1689, at Hartford, Connecticut, where he was engaged in

public business on behalf of the settlers on the eastern part of Long Island. On his monument, in the old burial ground at Hartford, is inscribed, "Well, sick, dead, in one hour's space." What was the immediate cause of his death, is not mentioned, and is not known. He had four children—John, David, Lion and Elizabeth.

John inherited the island, and was the third proprietor. He was born April 19th, 1661. It was during his life that the pirate, Kidd, pillaged the island, and made it the repository of his stolen treasures. He lived to the age of upwards of seventy-seven years, and died June 25th, 1738. His death was caused by a fall from a horse at Groton, Connecticut, while on a visit to New London, where he was buried. He was four times married, and his sons were David, Samuel, John, Joseph, and Jonathan. David inherited the island, and a large real and personal property was divided among the others.

David, fourth proprietor, was born January 3d, 1691. He was the last owner that could speak the Montaukett language. The following entry appears on the church records: "1751, July 4th, died Lord Gardiner, aged sixty, having been sick 'for some months.'" He was twice married, and had eight children. His sons were John, Abraham, Samuel and David. John and David were educated at Yale College, and took their degrees in 1736. Samuel and David engaged in mercantile pursuits. Abraham, known as Colonel Gardiner, inherited an estate at Easthampton, where he lived highly esteemed until his death, in the sixty-second year of his age, in 1782.

John became the fifth proprietor of the island. He was born June 7th, 1714. A stone in the south burial ground at Easthampton, records the death of "Elizabeth, wife of the Hon'ble John Gardiner, Lord of the Isle of Wight," in 1754, at the age of forty. After her death, he married Deborah Avery, whom he left a widow. (She afterwards married General Putnam.) He died on the island, May 19th, 1764, and was there interred. He had seven children. His sons were David, John and Septimus. John eventually settled on Eaton's Neck, which he purchased. Septimus entered the army, and died at an early age.

John, sixth proprietor, inherited the island, and was educated at Yale College, where he graduated, in 1759. He married Jerusha, daughter of Samuel Buel, D.D., a lady of talents and literary acquirements, a sketch of whose life has been given to the public by the Rev'd A. Woolworth. His death occurred at the early age of thirty-six years, September 8th, 1774. During the minority of his children, the island was for some time under the supervision of his executors.

His sons were John Lyon and David. They took their degrees at the College of New Jersey, in 1789. David purchased a farm at Flushing, where he resided, until his death, in 1815.

John Lyon, seventh proprietor, who is recollected with respect, inherited the island. Local history is indebted to him for some curious and important information. He died Nov. 22d, 1816, in the forty-seventh year of his age, leaving a wife, Sarah Griswold, a lady highly respected, and five children.

David Johnson, eighth proprietor, inherited the island. He was educated at Yale College, whence he graduated in 1824. He died December 18th, 1829, in the twenty-sixth year of his age, intestate and without issue.

John Griswold, ninth proprietor, second son of John Lyon Gardiner, is now in possession of the island. It is remarkable, that since the first proprietor, this island has descended from David to John, and John to David in regular succession, male issue never having failed, and until the present generation the descent from father to son having been unbroken. At the present time, there are several families of the name of Gardiner, not of this family, who have strayed to Long Island, from other parts.

CHAPTER IX.

LONG ISLAND being now, after the conquest, incorporated with the colony of New York, under the Duke of York, the Deputy Governor, Richard Nicolls, in March, 1665, convened a meeting at Hempstead, of two deputies from each town on Long Island, and two from Westchester, for the purpose of organizing the government. Thomas Baker and John Stratton, two of the first settlers, were chosen deputies from this town. These towns were erected into a shire, by the name of Yorkshire, which were divided into three Ridings. The towns in Suffolk County formed the East Riding. Among other business transacted by the convention, a body of laws, called the Duke's Laws, was promulgated; they superseded those under which the towns had previously acted, and were continued until 1683. The several towns were recognized as established, and were required to take out patents from the governor, for the lands within their acknowledged limits. A justice of the peace for each town was appointed by the governor, and held office during his pleasure. John Mulford was appointed for this town. The laws were transcribed, and

furnished to each town. A book of them in a fair hand writing still remains, well preserved, in the office of the town clerk of Easthampton. These laws and the proceedings of the meeting of deputies, were a subject of great complaint, and in 1665, the town appointed a committee "to consider of the means with a committee of Southampton and Southold, for a redress of grievances with respect to government and laws." They remonstrated against the exaction in trade and the exclusion of the people from participating in legislation, in which the governor claimed the exclusive power. In 1665, in compliance with the laws, a patent bearing date the 5th day of October, was obtained from Gov. Nicolls by David Gardiner, which confirmed the former patent from the deputy of the Earl of Sterling, granted to his father, for Gardiner's Island. This new patent required that the payment of £5 annually, which had been reserved to the Earl, should be made to the present governor and successors, and declared that the grantee, his heirs and assigns, "should enjoy in said island, all such privileges as any towns within that government had or enjoyed, and likewise that the said island should be free from depending on the jurisdiction of any other Towne, both in relation of military affairs and public rates, and solely and only to be accountable for the premises to the governor or his successors." A patent was also obtained the next year, bearing date the 13th of March. A deed of release was afterwards obtained from Governor Lovelace, bearing date the 23d of September. By an agreement made before the governor and the General Court of Assizes, October, 1670, remitting "for divers good causes and considerations, and particularly for a sum of money to him in hands paid" the rent of £5 annually, and only reserving, "as an acknowledgment to his Royal Highness, one lamb to be paid on the first day of May yearly."

The first General Assembly of the colony, which met in 1683, joined Gardiner's Island to Long Island, without the consent of or knowledge of its proprietor, and notwithstanding that a distinct existence had been secured and confirmed to it by the patents. David Gardiner, in a petition to Governor Dongan the succeeding year, remonstrated warmly against this arbitrary act of the assembly invading rights sacred to him, for ample consideration, by four agents of princes, three of whom had been governors under the then reigning monarch. In this petition, he set forth that his island had been seated by his father before there was an Englishman settled on Long Island; had been held forty-four years in peaceful possession; had contributed upwards of £280 to the support of the government, and never had any connection with Long Island, nor received any assistance what-

ever from it, even amid the perils of the Indian wars. This petition led to the grant by Governor Dongan of another, being the last patent, bearing date the 11th of September, 1686, in the second year of James II. This patent confirmed and ratified those which preceded it, and erected the island "into one Lordship and Manor, to be henceforth called the "Lordship and Manor of Gardiner's Island." It granted to "David Gardiner, and to the heirs and assigns of the said "David Gardiner, full power and authority at all times forever hereafter, in the said Lordship and Manor, one Court Leet and one Court Baron to hold and keep, at such time and "times, and so often yearly as he or they shall see meet." It granted also the necessary powers "for holding and keeping "of the said Court Leet and Court Baron, to be kept by the "heirs and assigns of the said David Gardiner forever, or "their or any of their stewards, deputed and appointed, with "free and ample power and authority to distrain for rents, "services and against sums of money payable by virtue of "the premises; and all other lawful remedies and means for "the having, possessing, recovering, levying and enjoying the "premises, and every part and parcel of the same, and all "waifs, estrays, happening within the said Lordship and "Manor of Gardiner's Island," &c., &c. It also granted "advowson and right of patronage, in all and every church and "churches, erected or established, or hereafter to be erected "or established" in the same, and provides "that the tenants "shall meet together and choose assessors after the manner "prescribed for cities, towns and counties, by the act of the "General Assembly, for defraying the public charge of each "respective city, town, &c," the sums raised to be collected and disposed of as directed by the same act. The manor was "to be holden of his most sacred majesty, his heirs and successors in free and common socage, according to the tenure "of East Greenwich, in the kingdom of England," yielding and paying therefor yearly, "one lamb on the first day of "May, at New York, in lieu of all services whatsoever."

By an agreement made before the governor and General Court of Assizes, by the sachems and chiefs of the Long Island Indians, on the 3d of October, 1665, there was to be no superior sachem on Long Island, but each particular sachem was to exercise his former control. Thus passed away the authority which had been immediately exercised by the ruling family of the Montauketts.

Gov. Nicolls administration continued three years, when he was succeeded by Governor Lovelace, who continued to administer the government, until he was ejected by the Dutch in 1673. The conduct of this governor was more exceptionable to the town than that of his predecessor. His efforts to

raise taxes without the consent of the people, with other arbitrary measures which he had introduced or continued, were considered dangerous to their liberties and a violation of their rights; they determined not to submit to them. They resolved to make an immediate appeal to the king in person, and to seek redress in a petition to the throne. On the 4th day of May, 1671, therefore, "it was voted by this town of Easthampton, that Mr. Thomas James and Mr. Thomas Baker, of this town, have full power to treat and conclude with the townes of Southampton and Southold, or their agents, concerning procuring a charter, and what privilege and liberties can be procured either for the three townes in generall or this towne in particular; or to make agreement with any person or persons now bound for England in order thereto; and what these our agents shall conclude upon, we engage ourselves to the true performance of the same." An order had been received from the governor, calling upon the towns to contribute to the repairing the fort at New York, and for this purpose the justices and deputies were ordered to assemble at Southold. Upon a report made of their proceedings, the people in town meeting passed the following resolution:

"June 24th, 1672.—It is agreed by the vote of the inhabitants, that the act of the justices and deputies, assembled at Southold, according to order of the governor, to consider for our safety in this time of danger, and of the letter that was sent by them to the governor, of their determination that they would contribute to the repairing of the fort at York, if they might have the privileges that others of his majesty's subjects in these parts do have and enjoy; it is well approved of by this town, and they are willing to answer their part in the charge, according to their act, if the privileges may be obtained, but not otherwise." By an entry in the records of December, 1683, it seems that to supply the wants of the government, a species of tax, by way of benevolence, was required: an expedient considered odious even in the most absolute government. "Appraisers were appointed of the houses, lands and chattels for the levy of the 'gift' that is to be given to the governor according to order."

About the same time, an order was received and obeyed that the town should make choice of three men for a grand jury, which was done. This was in conformity with the act of 1683, and was the first and only appointment made under that authority.

The Montaukett Indians being indebted to Governor Love-

lace for 400 bushels of corn, John Mulford, Thomas James and Jeremiah Conklin, became bound for its payment in a bond of £100. The Indians having made no provision for the discharge of this debt, the bond was forfeited, and payment demanded of the sureties. To meet this, the Indian Commissioner, Mr. Wells, then also one of the council, advised a disposal of a part of their lands. On the first day of December, 1670, Poniute, alias Mousup, the then sachem of Montaukett, by the advice of his chief counsellor and the assent of the other Indians, after consideration and debate, granted to Mulford, James and Conklin, the tract of land lying between Fort Pond on the south, and Great Pond on the north, the ocean on the east, and the sound on the west, excepting about two hundred and fifty acres, which had been previously disposed of. This grant was soon afterwards transferred to the town.

In furtherance of a more permanent support of the ministry of the gospel, it was resolved, April 3d, 1673, "that where a "professing people are planted and settled together, it is "and ought to be their duty, with all care and diligence, to "endeavor to the utmost for the maintenance and continu- "ance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ amongst them, whereby "their souls may be built up and edified in the ways of God. "And (having had several considerations and consultations to- "gether about it) to which end, therefore, the inhabitants of "this town have firmly agreed, and, by a major vote, granted "that the house lot of about twelve acres, with the addition "that had been allotted to John Osborn, should be bought "for a parsonage; the town having regard to the commo- "diousness of it, being in the heart of the town." This was purchased and retained until 1676, and then sold to Josiah Hobart, whom the inhabitants had, after some controversy, consented to admit among them. In lieu of this, the Calf Pasture was afterwards set apart for the support of the ministry, and still remains a parsonage with the addition of several tracts of woodland. Persons were required to come seasonably to the town meetings under a penalty, and no one was at liberty to absent himself without being subject to a fine.

The Dutch having repossessed themselves of New York, appointed Anthony Colve governor of the colony, and began the establishment of the government. The governor issued his proclamation requiring the submission of the towns on Long Island, all of which, excepting the three easternmost, complied. These declined to conform, and solicited the government of Connecticut to receive them under their protection and jurisdiction. This was done, and they were erected into a county; a court was constituted and judges appoint-

ed, together with such other officers, civil and military, as their circumstances required; besides this, they were furnished with substantial aid. The Dutch sent an armed force to effect their subjection, but without success. John Mulford was appointed one of the judges, and associated with John Howell, of Southampton, and Samuel Wyllis and John Allyn, of Hartford, Connecticut, held a court at Easthampton, June 13th, 1674. Two causes were heard and decided, and Thomas Baker was licensed to keep a house of public entertainment. News having been received that a peace had been concluded in Europe between the English and Dutch, and that the treaty provided for a restoration of all conquests, the people of Easthampton being disinclined to return again under the Duke's government, met on the day of holding the Court, and agreeing to raise £150 to defray the expenses, appointed John Mulford, Thomas Baker, Thomas Talmadge, Thomas Chatfield, Jeremiah Conklin, and Robert Dayton, a committee to join with their neighbors of Southampton and Southold, and petition the king to suffer them to remain under the government of Connecticut.

The restoration of the colony by the Dutch to the English, being a condition of the treaty of peace, Sir Edmund Andross, who had been appointed by the Duke governor of his territories in America, received the surrender from the Dutch authorities on the 31st of October, 1674, and re-established the Duke's government. A messenger was sent to Easthampton, Southampton and Southold, which towns continued united with Connecticut, to require them to return under the government of the Duke of York. They, through their deputies, sent a memorial to the governor, in which they stated "that by the aid furnished them by the kindness of Connecticut they had repelled the Dutch; that they had joined and come under that government; that that government had appointed both their civil and military officers; and that they had become by oath bound to that colony, and could not dissolve the connection without their approbation." The people of Easthampton instructed their deputies "to see that all lawful endeavors to be put forth to the utmost for our own continuance under that government." The governor and council, on the 18th of November, ordered that a messenger be again sent, requiring the towns to restore the former overseers and constables to their places, "under the penalty of being declared rebels," and ordered John Mulford, who had signed the memorial, to appear and answer before the council under the like penalty. This opposition by the town to the governor proved ineffectual; they were reluctantly compelled to return to the Duke's government, and the court of the constables and overseers again controlled their affairs.

About this time, the town agreed with Jonas Houldworth, to teach the school for one year at a salary of £33, "one-half to be paid in beef or oyle, and the other half in oyle, pork, hides, or tallow, or whale-bone"

In June, 1675, commenced the great Indian war, carried on by the renowned chief of the Wampanoag Indians, commonly called King Philip's War. It was the most disastrous of any that had preceded it, and realized the predictions of Lion Gardiner in 1660. The Montaukett sachem, Poniute, was suspected of being unfriendly to the English, and he, with some of the Montaukett Indians, were charged, by information from Connecticut, of assisting the Narragansetts in their attack upon Plymouth. The Indians on the island whose hostility was greatly feared, had, on the first alarm, been deprived of their arms by the governor; but he subsequently ordered them to be restored, except to the tribes of Shelter Island and Montaukett, having become satisfied from the assurance of the Indians of their peaceful disposition, that the alarm was in a great degree groundless. The arms of the tribes excepted were retained, from doubts of their sincerity. There does not, however, appear by the records any order or movement indicating alarm, or any apprehension by the inhabitants of the amicable disposition of the Montauketts. Poniute, the then sachem, had been approved of by the town, and there had been no interruption in their business relations. To prevent them from being seduced by the Narragansetts to aid in their hostilities against the English, to which, from their proximity, they were exposed, their canoes were seized by order of Governor Andross, and an armed vessel was sent by him into Gardiner's Bay, for the protection of the island.

In June, 1676, at a Court of Sessions held at Southold, by his majesty's authority, it was ordered "that no person not having an allotment, and thereby a right in the commons, shall make use of or cut timber in Easthampton." The number of persons coming into the town in search of a new home continued yearly to increase, and the inhabitants seem to have been at length little disposed to admit strangers. Upon application of several persons who, though refused, had persisted in a settlement, Governor Dongan ordered lands to be surveyed, and thirty acres allowed to each applicant. This was resisted by the people, and a protest put forth against the proceeding. The governor, irritated at the opposition, on the 8th of October issued his warrant to a messenger to have Samuel Mulford, Robert Dayton, Samuel Parsons, Benjamin Conklin, Thomas Osborn and John Osborn, who had signed the protest, before the council, to answer the premises. All remonstrance proved fruitless, and the original order of

the governor was carried into execution. The wolves had increased in the previous year, and a further bounty was offered for their destruction in addition to the amount allowed by the sessions. The county rate for 1676, paid by the town, was £30. 11s. 1d. A horse mill was erected in 1677, for flouring purposes, in the highway opposite the parsonage, at the commencement of the South Beach Lane. This lane had been previously called the Calf Pasture Lane, and it then assumed the appellation of the Mill Lane.

Many difficulties were encountered during this period in the management of the town, and in regard to their political relations. The intrusion of strangers, without visible means of support, or of doubtful or degraded characters, was a matter of uneasiness. Orders of a more rigid kind were passed by the magistrates, in relation to the entertainment of strangers, and their residence in families was prohibited without license of the constables and overseers. The Indian dogs, which had become so numerous as to worry and destroy the sheep, were reduced to the number of one to a wigwam. The sheep were let out to be folded. The Indians having given a lease to Josiah Hobart, for a part of the lands on Montaukett already disposed of, the controversy with the town, relative to these Indian titles, was renewed and again settled by compromise.

CHAPTER X.

IN June, 1682, at a training, the soldiers and other inhabitants being assembled, an address or petition was read, "wherein was declared some aggrievances, that did lie upon the spirits of the people in respect to the present government." By an unanimous vote, it was agreed that the constable and overseers, with the clergyman, Mr. James, and Thomas Talmadge, should sign the said petition in behalf of the town, and transmit it to the governor, "when he should arrive at York." The following is a copy of the petition:

"To the *Honourable* the Governour under his *Royall Highness* the *Duke of York*, The humble address of the *Inhabitants of the Towne of Easthampton upon Long Island*, sheweth:

"*Whereas*, at the time the government of New York was established under our soveraigne Lord, the King, by Collonell

“Richard Nicolls, and those gentlemen sent in commission
 “with him, “Wee, the Inhabitants of this Towne, soe well as
 “the rest of the Island, being required, sent our Messengers
 “to attend their Honours, and then both by word and writ-
 “ing, wee were promised, and engaged the Enjoyments of
 “all privileges and liberties which other of his Majesty’s
 “Subjects doe enjoy, which was much to our Content and Satis-
 “faction. Alsoe afterwards being required by theise, his
 “Majesty’s Commissioners, to send upp our Deputies to meet
 “at Hempsteade, and there the whole Island being assembled
 “in our Representatives, wee did then and there, uppou the
 “renewal of those former promises of our freedom and liber-
 “ties, Grant and Compact with the said Collonell Nicolls, Gov-
 “ernor, under his Royall Highness, That wee would allow
 “so much out of the Estates yearly, as might defray the
 “charge of Publicke Justice amongst us, and for killing
 “wolves, &c. But may it please your honor to understand,
 “that since that time we are deprived and prohibited of our
 “Birthright Freedomes and Privileges to which both we
 “and our ancestors were borne; although we have neither
 “forfeited them by any misdemeanour of ours, nor have at any
 “time beene forbidden the due use and exercise of them by
 “Command of our Gracious King, that we know of. And as
 “yet neither wee, nor the rest of his Majesty’s Subjects upon
 “this Island, have been at any time admitted since then to
 “enjoy a general and free Assembly of our Representatives,
 “as other of his Majesty’s Subjects have had the privilege
 “of. But Laws and Orders have been Imposed uppou us
 “from time to time without our consent, (and therein we are
 “totally deprived of a fundamentall Privilege of our Eng-
 “lish Nation.) together with the obstruction of Trafficke and
 “Negotiation with others of his Majesty’s Subjects, so that
 “we are become very unlike other of the King’s Subjects
 “in all other Colonyes and jurisdictions here in America, and
 “cannot but much resent our grievances in this respect,
 “and remaine discouraged with respect to the settlement of
 “ourselves and Posteritic after us. Yet all this time, pay-
 “ments and performance of what hath beene Imposed
 “uppou us hath not beene omitted on our parts, although
 “performance of our Promised Privileges aforesaid have been
 “wholly unperformed and what payments from yeare to yeare,
 “this many yeares hath beene made by us, Hath beene
 “made use of to other purposes than at first they were
 “granted for and intended by us. Soe that wee cannot but
 “feare if the Publicke Affairs of government shall continue
 “in this manner as they have beene; but hope better lest
 “our Freedomes should be turned into Bondage, and our
 “Anciente Privileges so infringed, that they will never ar-

“rive to our Posteritie. And we ourselves may be justlie
 “and highly culpable before his Majestie to our Subjection
 “to and supporting of such a Government, constituted soe
 “contrarie to the fundamentall Lawes of England, it being
 “a principall part of his Majestie’s Anciente and Just Gov-
 “ernment to rule over a free people endowed with many
 “privileges above others and not over Bondsmen, oppressed
 “by Arbitrary Impositions and Exactions. These things con-
 “sidered, we cannot but humbly request your Honour to
 “weigh our Condition in the Balance of Equity with Sery-
 “ousness before you proceed to any Action of your owne,
 “whereby to assert the proceedings of your Predecessors in
 “Government which wee now with all Christian moderation
 “dos complaine of. And for the redress here of an ad-
 “dress, as we understand hath beene made to his Royall
 “Highness by a late Court of Assize in behalfe of us, and
 “our Neighbours in this Colloney. See that we are not without
 “hope, your Honour hath received Directions to ease us
 “in these our grievances, by the Remedies humbly repre-
 “sented by us and Petitioned for by the Inhabitants of this
 “Island to the last Court of Assize that did sitt att New
 “Yorke, to which as yet no Satisfactorie Answer hath been
 “made. If, therefore, your Honour may be an Instrument
 “under God, and his Majestie, our Sovereigne Lord the King
 “to relieve us, and the rest of his Majestie’s good Subjects
 “upon this Island in our grievances, and bee a meanes to
 “helpe us to the free Enjoyment of our Birthright Privi-
 “leges, which the fundamentall Constitution of our English
 “Nation’s Government doth invest us with, (which, as we
 “doubt not, will bee very pleasing to his Majestie and all
 “your Loyall Superiors.) So your Honour may bee assured
 “it will firmly Engage and oblige us your humble Petition-
 “ers, and our Posteritie after us to have your Prudence and
 “Justice in Honorable Remembrance, as the first Restorer of
 “our freedome and privileges to our great Contentment.
 “But, Sir, if it shall fall out otherwise, which God forbid, and
 “wee are very unwilling to suppose, and that your Honour
 “should by reason of Counsells and Suggestions pursue a
 “Contrary Course to our humble Desires, soe as to continue
 “or augment our grievances, then wee request your Honours
 “Pardon and Excuse if in our conscience to God and in
 “honour and submission to his Majestie, our most Gracious
 “Sovereigne, we prostrate our Selves and our State and
 “Condition before the Throne of his unmatched Justice
 “and Clemencies, where we doubt not to find Reliefe and
 “Restoration, and can doe no less in the meane time, but Re-
 “sent our folorne and and bereaved Condition. So, Sir, as
 “our prayers are Continued for a happy and glorious Reigne

“to his Sacred Majestie, the King, and alsoe our prayers shall be for your Honour, that you may be a blessed Instrument under God, in your Wisdome, Justice and Equity over us. And humblie make bold to subscribe our Selves his Majestie’s poore, depressed though Loyall Subjects, and your most Humble Servants.”

The preceding address, copied with the literal orthography of the day, was doubtless written by Mr. James, who seems at this period, notwithstanding his advanced age, to have been active in the cause of the people against the arbitrary measures of the governor. It evinces much of the spirit and ardor in relation to popular rights, which subsequently in '76 produced the Declaration of Independence. The principles asserted by the revolution in England, which terminated the dynasty of the Stuarts, are put forth, as they were then maintained, to be the birthright of Englishmen, and the memorial shows that this people at that early day, though secluded from the busy parts of the world, were awake to the encroachment of prerogative, and vigilant in guarding their privileges. It breathes the spirit of free men, and is rife in those principles of civil right which were afterward proclaimed through the land as inherent and indispensable.

It was not until August, 1683, that the new governor, Colonel Thomas Dongan, who succeed Anthony Brockholst in the administration of the government, arrived in the province. He landed at the east end of Long Island, and heard there, as the historian of the colony says, the voice of discontent and dissatisfaction. It might have reached his ears through the address already recited. To quiet the excitement, he issued an order to Captain Youngs, the high sheriff of Yorkshire, to summon the freeholders of the several towns to meet and choose representatives for a General Assembly, to be convened on the ensuing seventeenth of October. The town of Easthampton chose a committee of three persons to represent them at Southold, where were to be convened committees from the towns in the Riding to elect two representatives to meet at New York in pursuance of the order. They also appointed Mr. James to accompany the committee, and advise with them in regard to instructions for the maintenance “of their privileges and English liberties.” The committee was ordered to object against any writ issuing otherwise than in his Majesty’s name, “whom only we own as our sovereign,” and in the name of the town to certify to the sheriff “that we do not send these persons in obedience to his warrant, but only because we would neglect no opportunity to assert our liberties.” Like instructions

were given by each town to its committee. The assembly of representatives met for three successive years, established courts of law, and passed such laws for the regulation of the affairs of the colony as their situation required. One of the deputies from the East Riding was John Stratton, of Easthampton, a son-in-law of Mr. James. After the dissolution of the assembly of 1685, Governor Dongan arbitrarily determined to dispense for the future with the services of that body, and undertook with his council to administer the government.

In 1686, Josiah Hobart, an active, enterprising and influential man, who was admitted an inhabitant of the town in 1676, was appointed high sheriff of Yorkshire. In the same year, 1686, in addition to the patent from Nicolls, another was obtained from Governor Dongan by the proprietors of Easthampton. The governor and his council had the disposal of the public lands; no purchase was valid without their concurrence; and wishing to complete the purchase of Montaukett, it became necessary that the inhabitants should avail themselves of their permission. Besides this, other privileges of a town beyond those conferred by Governor Nicolls were desirable, and measures were therefore taken to procure a new and confirmatory patent. A rate was levied on the proportion to their allotments, but on none other of the inhabitants, to defray the expenses attending the step, and a committee was appointed to proceed to New York with special instructions. It was not without much negotiations and expense that the cupidity of the governor and his council was satisfied, and a patent finally obtained. It confirmed the patent given by Nicolls, and granted the lands, within the former boundaries of the town, to Thomas James, Captain Josiah Hobart, Captain Thomas Talmadge, Lieutenant John Wheeler, Ensign Samuel Mulford, John Mulford, Thomas Chatfield, Sen., Jeremiah Conklin, Stephen Hand, Robert Dayton, Thomas Baker, and Thomas Osborn, freeholders and inhabitants of the town, and erected them into a body corporate and politic, by the name of the "Trustees of the Freeholders and Commonalty of the Town of Easthampton." The grant reserved a quit-rent to his majesty of one lamb annually, and was made to the following uses and purposes and no other; the lands already taken up and appropriated by virtue of the former patent, were to be vested in their then owners; the lands not taken up and appropriated, in the original purchasers as tenants in common, in the proportion of their respective payments; and the lands at Montaukett not purchased of the natives, in the trustees and their successors, with the sole and exclusive right of purchase. This patent also erected the town into a

corporation, with power to sue and be sued in their corporate name; to buy and sell real estate within the county; to pass by-laws, and to elect annually twelve trustees, two constables, and two assessors, for which privileges the annual sum of forty shillings quit-rent was reserved. The expenses attending the procurement of this patent amounted to more than one thousand dollars.

The expectations of a better administration of the government, which had been raised in the people by the promises of Dongan, when he landed among them, had been sadly disappointed, and they regarded him now with even personal abhorrence. Their dislike was not a little augmented by the fact that the governor was a papist, and, in his appointments to office, gave preference to those of his own religious faith. In 1688, Sir Edmund Andross succeeded Dongan, and again assumed the administration of affairs. On the 30th of July, the people being gratified at his recall from a belief that matters could not be worse, sent a committee to Governor Andross to present an address to him. John Wheeler and Samuel Mulford composed the committee. Andross soon retired to New England, and if the inhabitants obtained any relief, it must have been under the administration of the Lieut.-Governor, Francis Nicholson. In the same year, the trustees, by one of their first acts after their incorporation, ordered that Montauk, from Neapeag to Fort Pond, should be allotted to the proprietors as soon as might be convenient. They also resolved that the town commons should be speedily divided among the proprietors, and directed that until this could be done, the commons should be hired out and the proceeds divided among them by a rate. One Jacob Leisler having, in the absence of the executive, seized upon the government of the colony, the people of Easthampton, on the third of May, 1690, resolved that they would not submit to his authority, but would continue as they were. They, however, agreed that the moneys then in hand, which had been raised for the public use, should be paid to him or his order. The usurpation of Leisler having been put down by Governor Sloughter in 1691, the people of Easthampton sent a deputation to congratulate him on his safe arrival, and to make known to him their grievances and solicit relief. So rapid, however, was the transition of power, that scarcely had they time to welcome the return and receive the report of the deputation, from a journey made at that period at no small peril and loss of time, before they were called upon to acknowledge a new governor in the person of Colonel Fletcher. A House of Assembly, composed of representatives chosen by the citizens of the colony, appearing now to be finally settled as a constituent part of the

government, the people seem to have committed the protection of their rights to the care of their representatives. We no longer find them active in their primary meetings, and the records are comparatively silent in regard to political affairs. In 1699, William Kidd, a pirate of great notoriety, and a man of desperate and formidable character, cast anchor in Gardiner's Bay. Of all the numerous buccaneers who infested the ocean at that period, none is so universally known at the present day. What in connection with his previous standing, has probably given more acquaintance with the depredations and brutal acts of this individual, is the popular ballad, commencing

“My name is Robert Kidd, as I sailed,”

in which his deeds are sung. In 1701, the proprietors effected a purchase from the natives of Montaukett of the land lying between Fort Pond and Womponomon for the sum of £100, to be paid in installments upon demand. This purchase completed their title to all the lands within the boundaries of the town, and divested the Indians of their last remaining ownership on Montaukett. The boundary of the lands on that peninsula, which thus came wholly into the possession of the proprietors of the town, commences on the west, according to the deeds, at the old Indian fort at the foot of Nominick Hill on the south side, and Fresh Ponds on the north side, (being the easterly extremity of Neapeag,) and embraces the whole extent of the country easterly between the sound and the ocean. The Indians retained, by a lease or contract from the purchasers, an interest in the Indian Field and North Neck, a mere usufruct which they still enjoy. A personal right, not transferable, to plough and plant annually thirty acres of land, to keep fifty head of cattle, and to take a sufficiency of wood for fuel and fencing, comprises now the whole extent of their tenure. This interest, by an expressed restriction in the patent of the town, they can only dispose of to the proportions of the land. Montauk, which was then in some degree populous, had previously to the coming of the white man, swarmed with a large population. An ancient Indian, more than a hundred years ago, declared to one of the oldest inhabitants of the town, that within his recollection, the natives “were as many as the spires of the grass; and if,” said he, stretching his hands on the ground, “you can count these, then when I was a boy, you could have reckoned their number.” The Indians are now reduced to three families of some six or eight individuals in the whole. Four white families reside there, three of which act as herdsmen and shepherds to the

large number of cattle, sheep and horses, belonging to this and the neighboring towns, which pasture over the lands. The place is almost one wide and extended region of solitude where man feels himself alone. Over its elevated hilly surface, the eye seldom rests upon other than natural objects. The large forest which once covered its face, has fallen before the axe of the husbandman and the winds of heaven; and the vision has no interruption from over the greater part of the land to an illimitable expanse of ocean. The extensive swamps, where the warrior waited in ambush the passing of his foe, have most of them become dry and free of wood. The grounds, where often the battle raged in the strife for life and victory, are noted only by the many arrow heads which the tread of animals and the crumbling of the soil expose to view. The lofty and symmetrical stature of the red man no longer crowns the cliffs and headlands of the shores, but over their summits the sea bird and the eagle may still be seen hovering in the air, or soaring aloft in beautiful gyrations. All the magnificent features of nature, as they were seen by former successive generations, still present to the visitor the same sublime and majestic appearance; but the red man sleeps in his grave. The band of sparkling foam, produced by the waves of the ocean rolling and dashing upon the shore in endless succession, still embraces the land; but the red man, with an admiration never satiated, watching the pulsations of the mighty deep, is no longer there. On the bold headland of Womponomon, where, in the clear dark night, the signal fire was kindled to give notice to the friendly tribes of the opposite shore of the approach of some mutual foe, or of readiness to proceed at the next moon upon some enterprise of danger or revenge, the sentinel of the red man no longer holds his midnight vigil. The calm moon, whose bright and soft light was reflected from the undulating surface of the gently rising wave, when the canoe was launched upon its bosom for distant adventure, still sheds its monthly brightness upon the troubled sea; but it no longer guides the bark of the red man. The agitations and tumults that gave activity and excitement to savage life, and filled the forest with the echoes of the war whoop, are buried in the grave of the red man; but the almost painful stillness of the land is disturbed by the everlasting murmur of the ocean.

In 1741, the Society for Propagating the Christian Religion among the Indians of New England, which had formerly employed Mr. James, appointed the Rev'd Azariah Horton a missionary among the Montauketts. This society had been formed in London at the instigation of Edward Winslow, a magistrate of Plymouth, Massachusetts, and embraced in the number of its members many eminent men. It was incor-

porated by act of Parliament, and James Boyle, brother of the Earl of Corke, was appointed first governor over it by Charles II. Mr. Horton was successful in his labors, and it was under his instruction that the Montauketts renounced their idolatry, and ceased to worship after the manner of their fathers. Subsequently, there were a number of Indian preachers and teachers among them; but the most distinguished was Sampson Ocum, a Mohegan, who was born in 1723, and educated in Connecticut by Mr. Wheelock and Mr. Pomeroy. He opened a school on Montauk in 1755, and also preached there from that date until 1761. At the latter period, the Indians numbered but one hundred and eighty-two individuals. Colonel Gardiner, of Easthampton, in a letter to the Rev'd John Devotion, dated 1761, states that the Indians, after the death of Wyandaneh, had no sachem whom they much regarded, or who was able to govern them. In 1765, they became dissatisfied with the whites in relation to their occupancy of Montauk, and applied to Sir William Johnson, the agent for Indian affairs, for redress against what they deemed the illegal exactions of the proprietors of Montauk. In a letter from him to Colonel Gardiner, then one of the largest proprietors, he states the dissatisfaction of the Indians, and required that justice be done them. Colonel Gardiner replied, denying their pretended grievances, and alleging that their claims were not founded on any right. The Indians persisting in their claims, Sir William came and remained among them several weeks. After the revolution, they made complaints from time to time to the state government of the encroachments of the whites, and at last obtained from the executive the appointment of a commission to examine into their charge; but they were found and reported to be without foundation, and to arise from a misapprehension of their actual interest in Montauk. Schools continued to be opened from time to time among them, and Paul Cuffee, a Shinnecock half blood, was employed as their occasional religious instructor, until a very late day. From their teachers, some of them learned to read and write, but their progress in knowledge neither ameliorated their condition nor divested them of their natural improvidence. Their thirst for the liquid fire of the white man, continued with scarcely an exception, as ardent, if not more so, as when they first became acquainted with civilized life, and the domestic comforts of the hearth were but little enhanced beyond the savage state, notwithstanding all the advantage of intercourse with a moral and religious people, disposed to treat them with sobriety and friendship. The efforts in this case for regenerating the Indian character, were certainly a decided failure, and may be added to the thousand others in

this western world, which have disappointed the general hopes of the philanthropist. To be never weary in well doing, is the divine injunction, but the expectation of ever redeeming the red man from his state of nature, would seem, from what has been the result of all previous experiments on this continent, a labor at least unaccompanied with any reasonable hope. From the progress of civilized life, they have either retreated or remained but to perish; and so rapidly have they disappeared, that no trace of them has been left, where but a few years since they were sole lords of the soil.

The fort called by the Indians the New Fort, to which they removed from one at the foot of Nominick, is about one hundred feet square, and is still to be seen on Fort Hill, on the northeast side of Fort Pond. The rampart and parapet was of earth, with a ditch at the foot of the glacis, and was probably palisaded with trunks of fallen trees. At each angle there was apparently a round tower of earth and stone, and the whole could probably have held from three to five hundred men. The pond on the south afforded a safe and convenient harbor for their canoes, under the immediate protection of the fort. Its contiguity to the pond yielding them also an abundant supply of fresh water, on the side where a communication was easily kept up by the facility of protection. The location was one of decided advantage for protection and defense, and must have been sufficient against attacks, which Indian tactics could have brought to bear upon it. On the west side, the ground descends almost perpendicularly to Fort Pond, and, on the east, it is level for some distance. On the south and adjoining the south angle, is an Indian burial ground. From the fort can be seen the headland of Womponomon, and it overlooks the pond and the bay on the north. Near a burial ground, about a half mile from the fort, in a southeasterly direction, upon the upper surface of a small granite rock, nearly bedded in the ground, is the impress of a human foot. The figure is as perfect and distinct as would follow from the pressure of the left foot upon some soft adhesive substance, except being deficient in a toe, a deficiency not at first sight apparent, and discernible only by inspection. No artist could have chiseled a more perfect resemblance. The impression is still fresh, and without the least appearance of injury from time. There are two others less perfect and distinct—the one in the Indian Field, and the other to the west of Fort Pond. The heel of the foot is toward the east of all of them, as though formed in passing to the west. Excepting that they are the footsteps of the evil spirit, no record or tradition pretends to give their story. They were there at the first settlement by

the white people, and were a subject of powwow to the Indians.

In the first woods as you enter upon Montauk from the west, called Hither Wood, is a granite rock, flat and smooth, upon the surface of which are several spots of the color of blood. The tradition of the Indians holds them to have been caused by the flow of blood from the wound of a chief, who was there killed by the arrow of an enemy. It is called "the jumping place," and near the rock is a small cavity in the ground, said to have been made by the expiring leap of the chief. Near the place of their former residence are still to be seen the excavations in the ground, where, in deep pits, was secured the Indian corn when gathered and husked for their winter store. They are called, in ancient writings, Indian barns. On a small eminence on the north shore, and at other places where excessive winds have kept the soil from forming, are found the chippings from the white flint stone; it was here that the arrow heads were manufactured. One would hardly suppose that so dull a weapon could be sent with sufficient force to destroy life, and such a doubt seems to have been early entertained by the Commissioners of the Massachusetts Bay. To satisfy them of the contrary, Mr. Gardiner, while commander of the Saybrook Fort, sent to them a rib of one of his soldiers that had been pierced through by an arrow driven by the bow in a conflict with the Indians. To protect his person, and as a better defense against the arrows than ordinary clothing, he wore a buff coat. In Great Pond and Oyster Pond are found oysters of fine flavor and in great abundance, and in these, as well as in most of the other ponds, are also the white and yellow perch. In the months of May and September, plover in great number frequent the hills and plains, and during the autumn and spring months, the brant, the goose, and many varieties of the duck, yield to the vigilance and industry of the sportsman abundant amusement. On Womponomon, the federal government in 1795 erected a lighthouse with octangular sides, built of cut free stone, the lantern being about one hundred feet above the ground, and nearly two hundred above the surface of the ocean. From the gallery on the top of the tower and outside of the lantern, the prospect is grand and majestic. In the west, the islands, the main and the sound are seen, and in the east and south is presented to the eye the illimitable ocean without a mark, without a bound. By the action of the waves during the violent storm of September, 1812, and that of a subsequent period, very considerable inroad was made upon the cliff, and by the ordinary effects of the tides and rain, it is gradually wearing away. The air around differs but little from that felt at sea

upon the deck of a vessel, and the valetudinarian may derive from a salt and invigorating atmosphere, a renewal of health and an increased appetite, which the well supplied table of the keeper of the light will pleasurably satisfy. The excellence of the fish is nowhere surpassed, and during the summer months may always be had in great perfection—the striped and the sea bass, the black and the blue fish, the porgy, etc. The invalid, the epicure, the gourmand, and the sportsman, may here find for a few weeks what each of them may class among the greatest enjoyments of life.

The geology of this region has not received much scientific investigation. The land, on the south and north side, is gradually wearing away by the action of the water. The road which was originally some distance from the edge of the cliffs, has already disappeared in many places from the inroads of the sea, and stumps of trees are found on the north side below low water mark. Indications of iron are occasionally seen along the banks and gulleys, and an ochery brown oxyde of iron occurs in a considerable bed, one mile and a half from Neapeag. A small but lively spring, slightly chalybeate, on the north shore near Oyster Pond, discharges into the bay, and boils through the sand a little above ordinary high water mark. It has never undergone a chemical analysis by which to determine its medical qualities. It was freely used by the Indians, as a remedy for cold and consumptive affections. The water is very cold, and painful to the hand if long immersed. Its temperature apparently never varies. Single rocks of granite are scattered over the surface of the ground in some parts in considerable numbers, but not of great size. From the appearance of the sides of the cliffs, the substratum is formed of similar rocks, and of pebbles, gravel and loam. The soil on the north side is a vegetable loam, rich and productive, while that on the south is more light and less fertile, but yielding a sweet nutritious grass.

The Rev'd Nathaniel Huntting, who succeeded Mr. James, and was the officiating clergyman in 1696, was ordained on the thirteenth of September, 1699. He received a salary of £60 a year, and had given him in addition a house and ground, together with the use of the parsonage. In 1696, Mr. Huntting commenced a record, the earliest preserved or known to have been kept, of deaths, marriages, baptisms and church admissions. This task, which he seems voluntarily to have assumed, he discharged throughout his life with commendable care and fidelity. Mr. Buel, who succeeded Huntting, partially continued this record, and it was subsequently neglected, and resumed at intervals, by his family and successors. In 1700, a town rate of £215. 8s. 4*d.* was levied.

CHAPTER XI.

LORD CORNBURY, who had taken an active part in promoting the restoration at home, had received his commission as governor in gratitude for these services. From his opposition to the preceding government and his hostility to papacy, the people expected, notwithstanding former disappointments, at least a liberal administration. But in this they were soon undeceived. His bigotry and intolerance was not exceeded by any of his predecessors, either of the Romish or of the English church. His zeal for the Episcopal worship was so exclusive, that they soon discovered that they had gained but a change of evils in their freedom from papal domination. With a vulgar hatred of Presbyterianism, Cornbury delighted to exhibit towards its professors a savage bigotry, and as he was possessed of a weak mind and a low and vindictive disposition, his conduct was mean and degrading. Destitute of refined feelings, he pursued, in his private and public relations, a course ungrateful and perfidious. The people were aroused, and became alive to the hazard to which their liberties were exposed. A bill for the establishment of the Christian ministry, which had passed the legislature and become a law, aroused the jealousy of the Presbyterians in this county, where they constituted almost the whole population. It was intended, they believed, for the advancement of Episcopacy and the sole benefit of the clergy of that sect. That such was the purpose of the governor, under the construction given to its provisions, was manifest, and though they were without the immediate influence of the act, they looked upon it as a dangerous encroachment upon their religious privileges. The right of representation in assembly, which had been declared by an act of the legislature, was refused by the king, and this further admonished them of the insecurities of their liberties and the fallacy of their hopes. It was during the excitement caused by the disgraceful and tyrannical conduct of Lord Cornbury, that a canvass held for members of assembly, at which Samuel Mulford was elected as representative from the county of Suffolk. He was born in 1645, was captain in the militia, had been a long time recorder, and had occupied other stations in the civil government of the town. He was self-educated, somewhat eccentric, but of great probity and unquestioned talents. His father was one of the first settlers of the town, had held the office of justice of the peace for many years, and had been a deputy in the assembly at Hartford, and a member of

the first house of deputies of this province. Samuel Mulford was in his speech rapid, and possessed of a temper at times rather hasty; he expressed himself occasionally with more instability and less guardedness than a due respect to prudence would seem to demand. But such was the structure of his mind, that he could hold no toleration with what he was convinced was wrong, and he could yield nothing in combating for principle. In his feelings, his habits, his associations, his religion, and his great simplicity of manner, he was essentially a republican. His first political efforts had been directed against the severance of his town from the jurisdiction of Connecticut. Its annexation to the colony of New York, never changed his political preference. Animated by the spirit and inheriting the feelings which pervaded the puritans, the aristocratic principles, civil and religious, that predominated in the councils of the colony, were at variance with his independent views. Upon the Episcopalians of the English high church was bestowed all the patronage of the government, and upon them only were conferred the offices of trust and honor. It was not surprising, therefore, that in the contrast between the situation of his puritan friends in his beloved New England and those here, he should feel some jealousy and disappointment. As there was no gratitude due the government for any favor bestowed upon his town or county, he was not disposed to yield to its ministers more than a watchful confidence. So far as they diverged in principle in their views of the government from the original organization of the colonies of New England, he condemned and opposed them. Her institutions were his beau-ideal of a republican government. Her prudence in council, her economy in administration, her prosperous industry, her attention to morals and education, were ever the subjects of his eulogy and admiration. He was pleased to contrast the organization of his own colony with that of the New England colonies, and show their great superiority in the enjoyment and estimation of their civil and religious rights. With such impressions, Captain Mulford took his seat in the General Assembly, convened on the fourth of June, 1705, in the city of New York. From this time until the termination of Cornbury's government, he was active in opposing his efforts of misrule, and finally at his departure in promoting the passage of resolutions censuring his administration. A controversy between the General Assembly and the various governors, relative to the finances and the mode of keeping and disbursing the revenue, was continued almost without intermission until 1716, when the influence exercised by Gov. Hunter over the elections, an assembly was obtained, a majority of which was disposed to advance his views. It seems that

he at once determined to punish those of his opponents who were returned, and who in the previous house had been most offensive to him. The house met on the 9th of June, and on the 21st a motion was made that Capt. Mulford put the speech he made on that day into the hands of the clerk of the house, which was adopted and ordered accordingly. On the 22d, the clerk informed the house that Capt. Mulford had delivered to him his speech according to order, and the house further ordered that the same be taken into consideration. Not having said anything in the house which he was not willing publicly to avow, and desirous that his own constituents might be possessed of the sentiments which had been considered exceptionable, he caused the speech to be printed and published. It was most probably from the dictation of the governor that a subservient house had made the call, and doubtless it was also his intention to have required of it a further act of servility to punish the freedom of remark. The printing of the speech, however, put in his own individual power the means of proceeding against the author under the color of law, and he might have preferred this more immediate punishment of one so odious both as to politics and religion. He instituted a suit against him in the Supreme Court, a tribunal constituted by his own appointment, to harass him by the expenses and delays of law. Capt. Mulford was not rich, his estate was the accumulation of his own industry. From the labors of his hands in the field, for he was a practical farmer, his family derived their principal support. His age already exceeded sixty years; but his life had been so uniformly temperate that, except a whitened head, time had made but little inroad upon a naturally powerful muscular frame. As long as the prosecution was suspended, and it was in the power of the governor to prolong it at pleasure, it prevented his return to his family, and his personal attention to his domestic affairs.

Nothing further was done by the General Assembly in relation to any decision upon the subject of the speech of Mr. Mulford. But on the 16th of August ensuing they resolved to address his excellency in behalf of Capt. Mulford, and on the 21st the house, with the speaker, attended his excellency with the following address:

“To his Excellency the Governor, the humble address of the General Assembly of New York:

“May it please your Excellency: The Assembly being deeply sensible of the great damage and inconveniency Mr. Sam'l Mulford, a member of this house, suffers and undergoes, by reason of a prosecution against him in the Supreme Court, for printing and publishing a speech formerly made by him

“in Assembly, are humble suitors to his Excellency to give orders that Mr. Mulford, in regard of his great age and distance of habitation from the city, and other considerations, may be freed and discharged from the said prosecution in the Supreme Court.”

Upon the adjournment of the house, Capt. Mulford returned to his constituents, and with that indomitable perseverance which ever marked his character, determined, notwithstanding his age, to proceed to London and solicit in person from the ministry that reform in the government of the colony which all his attempts had heretofore failed in producing. Among the grievances of which he had occasion to complain, was one which greatly affected the interests of his own constituents. The business of whaling had been followed by the inhabitants of his town and those of Southampton with such success as to be greatly profitable. He had obtained the passage of an act for its encouragement by provisions protecting from arrest the persons employed. The cupidity of the governor, ever seeking the means of its gratification, had exacted without law a duty of a tenth of all the oil obtained, as a *droit* of royalty. To conceal his departure, he embarked from Boston, whither, after landing at Newport, he had proceeded on foot through the wilderness. We may imagine the appearance of Capt. Mulford at the Court of St. James, and its effect upon the royal household. Dressed in the homely garb of domestic manufacture, the handiwork of his wife and daughters, and probably of the fashion of an anterior age, having manners rather rustic and stiff, and the formal bearing that marked at that day the Presbyterian character; his address respectful, but divested of sycophancy; his person such as has been previously described; his countenance sober, and strongly marked with intelligence, firmness and decision. The novelty of his appearance and of his errand attracted notice, and his interesting and well digested information gained him attention. The tax upon oil was directed to be discontinued. “A memorial of several aggrievances and oppressions of his majesty’s subjects in the colony of New York, in America,” prepared by him, and delivered to the members at the door of the House of Commons, was read and elicited inquiry. It was calculated to make a deep impression. It contained a free and bold denunciation of the usurpations of the governor and the maladministration of the government; a charge of burdensome taxes, of a prodigal if not fraudulent expenditure of moneys in the Indian department, and of an unnecessary and injurious restriction upon trade with the Indians and with Canada, together with a proposition of relieving the people

from the onerous supplies required for quieting the Indians, by at once and with a sufficient force putting them down and compelling a quiet and peaceable conduct, treating them as friends while disposed to friendship, but as enemies when acting hostilely.

Col. Schuyler had preceded Capt. Mulford to England, with some of the chiefs of the Five Nations, whom he exhibited in the saloons of the palace, and in the hall of the Parliament House. He was of the cavalier high church party, and a gentleman of courteous manners, large property, and influential friends. He had charge of the Indian department, and was the advocate of presents, amnesties and treaties, in the management of difficulties with the natives. The Indian question had been a subject on which they had taken opposite grounds in the arena of the house. In the warmth of debate the irritable feelings of Capt. Mulford had driven him to say that the house was governed by the devil. Called upon to explain and apologize, he declared that he meant that Col. Schuyler ruled the house; that he was controlled by the Indians, and the Indians by the devil. Such was his deduction; whether the logical conclusion was satisfactory to the house, there is neither record or tradition. It was said by the friends of Col. Schuyler that he, by his personal influence, held the Indians in subjection. It seems Capt. Mulford thought the reverse. The commissioners received no salary. Capt. Mulford was incredulous of political partisan disinterestedness and generosity. He was therefore the more watchful. He saw that large sums were deposited in their hands for occasional presents. They were traders themselves. He had studied mankind, and he knew how deep an influence interest exercises upon the present judgment. His views relative to the Indian trade were the more decidedly unalterable. He called at the counting houses of the merchants, and opened to them the commercial riches of the country. He requested them to give a leisure moment to the consideration of his memorial, etc. It was read and understood by a class who are sharp sighted in all the relations of their business, and its effect and the movement consequent will be seen in the sequel.

Capt. Mulford returned to his constituents with the gratifying news of the discontinuance, by order of the king, of the tax on oil. He took his seat in the General Assembly without any abatement of the hatred of the governor. On the second of June, the compliant house called up the old question about the speech which he had published. A motion was made and carried that Capt. Mulford give now his reasons why he had printed a speech formerly made by him to the General Assembly of the province, without leave of the house. At the

request of the speaker, he proceeded to offer his reasons and then withdrew. The house having taken the same into consideration, a motion was made that Capt. Mulford be expelled this house, for printing, without leave of the house, a speech formerly made to the General Assembly, in which are many false and scandalous reflections upon the governor of this province. It was carried in the affirmative and an order was made and entered that Capt. Mulford be expelled the house for the said offense. The malignant feelings of the governor were gratified, and the meanness and servility of the house will ever remain a matter of record. In liberality and freedom, the legislative debates of the present day favorably and admirably contrast with those of that period.

Capt. Mulford returned to his constituents somewhat advanced in his knowledge of partisan patriotism, but with no abatement of his zeal for the protection of their liberty and property. A new election for representation from the county of Suffolk, to serve in the General Assembly, in lieu of Capt. Mulford, was required by a writ from the clerk of the crown. The influence exerted by the governor over former elections was not withheld on this interesting crisis, and the canvass was conducted by the minions of power under the exercise of denunciations, of arbitrary inflictions, and all the allurements which the smiles of patronage could offer. The people were true to themselves and their candidate. They could not be subdued, intimidated or bought, and Capt. Mulford was again returned a representative for Suffolk county. This confidence of a generous people in his integrity and talents, was certainly highly honorable to the representative, and it exhibited that most gratifying demonstration of the soundness of public feeling and public morals, the gratitude of a people for the honest exertions of their servants. The re-election was no doubt highly pleasing to the representative and his constituents, and it must have given him superadded zeal in their service, for the advancement of civil liberty. In the autumn of 1717, Captain Mulford again took his seat in the house; in the same house whose decision in his case had been virtually reversed by the voice of his constituents, to whom the appeal had been made. The leading members were Col. Morris, and Robert Livingston, who was elected speaker, both devoted to the governor and submissive to his wishes. "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib." They adhered to and sustained without a question an administration from which they derived wealth and consideration.

The governor had received from England a copy of the memorial, and was prepared to renew again, with exasperated feelings, and backed by the whole support of a pliant house, the political and personal warfare against its author. Capt.

Mulford was alone in the house, without political friends and without political sympathy; but he knew his rights, and the rights of his constituents, and fearlessly met the conflict. Never was a contest more unequal or more heroically sustained by the weaker party. Every advantage which the power of numbers could give was with his opponents. He had been early taught to feel no veneration for corruption, however clothed, and he was not to be put down by contumely. He was determined, at all hazards, that the voice of his constituents should be heard, even though disregarded, and he was of too bold a temperament to be dismayed by executive prerogative, the insolence arising from sudden wealth, or family pretension.

On the 13th of September, 1717, Col. Rutsen reported from the committee appointed to consider of a memorial entitled "A memorial of several aggrievances and oppressions of his majesty's subjects in the colony of New York." The report was read and agreed to by the house. An humble address was by the same committee ordered to be drawn up, to be presented to his excellency upon the said report. This address, as might be expected, was mainly adulatory of the political course of the governor; denying the correctness of the facts stated in the memorial, and the justness of the conclusions of the author; charging him with a wicked disposition to engage the colony in an odious war: and advising his excellency to instruct the agent to find out the offender that he might be brought to justice. The language of the address was passionate and fretful, and exhibited the wincing of the galled jade. But this was not the whole of Capt. Mulford's offense. Since his return, a publication entitled "An Information," under his own signature, had been given to the public. This had further excited the ire of the governor and his council, and on the 22d of November, a committee of the house was deputed to take the whole matter into consideration. The nervous sensibility of the government and assembly in relation to whatever proceeded from Capt. Mulford, approached nearly the ridiculous. If the facts did not exist or were grossly misrepresented in these publications, or if the arguments were weak and fallacious, truth would have demolished the former, and the latter would have fallen harmless. The importance attached to them would seem greatly to exceed their real consequence, unless they did, in fact, as they professed, expose a policy interested and sordid, injurious alike to the mother country and the colony. The cry of Indian hostility and papal ascendancy from French intrigue, had long been used to open the purses of the people, for meeting the payment of extravagant supplies voted by the house. These publications were calculated to expose the fraud of this management, and to put an end to the sources of peculation and

extravagant expenditures. The expenses of the government were generally in arrear, and the deficiencies could only be accounted for from the amounts retained by the governor and his favorites, for extravagant salaries and colorable pretenses of Indian presents. His habits of economy, which were cherished by personal labor, were totally at variance with what appeared to Capt. Mulford a wasteful expenditure of the people's treasure. He believed that economy was as necessary to public as private prosperity.

The assembly, in accordance with the invitation of the council, appointed a committee, of which Col. Morris was chairman, to meet that of the council on the evening of the same day. An adjournment of the house put an end to the proceedings of the committee. At the next meeting of the house, on the 26th of June in the following year, the speaker, Livingston, acquainted the house that the mayor of New York informed him from his excellency that the council would appoint a committee from their board to join a committee of the house on the affair relating to Mr. Samuel Mulford. The house ordered a committee of seven, of which Col. Morris was again appointed the chairman, to join that of the council. The joint committee met on the 27th of June, and on the 30th of June the report of the committee on the part of the council, and on the first of July the report of the committee on the part of the house was made, and having been read, paragraph by paragraph, was agreed to, and the clerk of the house was ordered to acquaint the council of the agreement of the house. The representation was entitled "The humble representation of his Majesty's Council and the General Assembly of the Province of New York, to the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners for hearing appeals from the Plantations." On the 2d of July, Mr. Wildman having informed the house that the clerk of the council had signed the representation, the clerk of the house was also ordered to sign it, and to deliver it to the council. Thus ended for the time the proceedings of the council and house upon the imputed criminalty of Capt. Mulford.

On the 17th of September, 1720, Gov. Hunter was succeeded by Gov. Burnet. The same assembly was again called together. They were affectionately remembered at home by their late governor, to whose regards they were entitled by every consideration of gratitude. Such was his favorable accounts of their submissiveness, that the ministry advised the continuance of them. They were considered by the government, in the language applied on the occasion, "as good as made to order." Gov. Burnet, in his opening address, resorted to the old story relative to the French and Indians, by which former governors had been successful in obtaining

large supplies. Chief Justice Morris, the leader of the house, drew the answer, which responded satisfactorily to the address of the governor. At first, affairs went well with the latter, and the tranquillity of a well ordered despotism pervaded the political state. At length the silence was broken, and loud complaints were heard against the continuance of an assembly after the accession of a new governor. It was insisted to be unconstitutional, and opposed to the welfare of the community. The people were also greatly dissatisfied with the accumulation of the public debt, notwithstanding the liberal grants. The London merchants began to move against the further prohibition in commerce, and petitioned the king in opposition to the revival of the act against French trade. The information which Capt. Mulford, in his intercourse with them, and in his memorial had communicated, had aroused them to the restriction on this important branch of business.

On the 17th of October, Capt. Mulford, discussing the constitutional organization of the house, and saying that the colony was £35,000 in debt, was asked by one of the members whether a new choice would prevent that debt. He answered it would not; but it would remove the assembly that had occasioned it. A motion was made that Capt. Mulford be called to the bar of the house to explain what he meant by those words; he was accordingly summoned. He being out of the house, the clerk was required to notify him to attend on the next morning. He attended according to order, and satisfactorily explained to the house, and protested against any intentional disrespect. On the 26th, an address was signed by the members of the house, with the exception of Capt. Mulford, to his excellency, upon his entering upon the duties of his office. Capt. Mulford objecting to the legality of the house, was ordered to withdraw, and, after some time, being called in, the speaker asked him whether he would sit and act with the house. He answered he could not. An order for his expulsion was thereupon entered, and the speaker was ordered to direct the clerk of the crown to make out a new writ to elect a member for the county of Suffolk, in the room of Capt. Mulford, expelled the house.

Here terminated the public and political life of one of nature's men. His age precluded him from further service and a new member was elected for the county. At a period long subsequent, a case in some degree analogous held the attention of Europe and convulsed a kingdom. The case of John Wilkes is a matter of history. His expulsion from parliament by the exercise of royal influence was gratifying to the privileged orders. His return to the house by the force of popular favor in defense of popular rights, met the plaudits of millions. His cause was the result of private ambi-

tion, and not of zeal for civil liberty. In the case of Capt. Mulford, on the contrary, the purity and patriotism of his motives were unquestioned. The only notice which history has taken of the latter, who was for twenty years an active member of the colonial legislature, is contained in eight lines of a history of New York, by Wm. Smith, the only historian of the period. Had Mr. Mulford found more favor with the parasites of power, and less with the people, his services would have been duly chronicled. At the commencement of the American revolution, Smith retired with the tories to Canada, and retained the smiles of his king in the enjoyment of a lucrative office. Capt. Mulford was now approaching eighty years of age, and he survived but four years the termination of his political career. He died in 1725, at the advanced age of eighty-one. The popular feelings ran so high for a new election of members, that Gov. Burnet was compelled to dissolve the house. On the 11th of December, the king repealed all the acts relating to Indian affairs and the trade with Canada, thus admitting the justice and policy of an opposition strenuous and unremitted for many years. Every act of importance, therefore, for which Capt. Mulford had contended, was at last obtained by the voice of the people, and the concession of the king.

CHAPTER XII.

WHILE Mulford was thus upholding the rights and interests of his constituents, the internal history of the town presented few attractive features. The war against Canada, drew to that quarter during a period of several years a number of young men desirous of a more active life, who as volunteers entered the army raised by the colonies against the French and Indians. Some fell in battle, others died on their return, and a few survived to regain their homes. This was called Queen Anne's War, and the campaign in 1710, which proved extremely disastrous, was concluded by the peace of Utrecht in 1713, and put an end to hostilities. The rapid diminution of timber had attracted attention as early as 1676, when at a Court of Sessions held at Southold, by his majesty's authority, it was ordered "that no person not having an allotment "and thereby a right in the commons should cut timber in "Easthampton." It now became necessary to provide against the frequent fires, which were found more destructive than the trespasses of individuals, and in 1710, the trustees were

authorized to call out the inhabitants to assist in extinguishing them. Upon the erection of the church a few years afterwards, it was found necessary to resort to Gardiner's Island for timber of sufficient size for the frame. The clearing of the woodlands for agricultural purposes had doubtless been greatly instrumental in bringing about this extraordinary scarcity.

The absence of sufficient pecuniary incentive to individual enterprise, led the people to support at the public charge many conveniences found indispensable to a comfortable existence. In 1677, a house was erected for flouring purposes, at the commencement of the south beach lane, which thus derived the appellation of the Mill Lane, and in 1710 the difficulty of procuring smithing on all occasions of necessity induced the erection of a smithery near the same place, and the employment of a blacksmith at the public expense. The church which stood in the burial ground, having, by the increase of population, become too small for the accommodation of the people, it was resolved in 1716 to build a new one. It is somewhat remarkable, that at a period so early, timber should not have been found of sufficient size for the frame; but this seems to have been the fact, from the circumstance of persons having been sent to Gardiner's Island to procure it. The church was raised in 1717, but not completed for worship until the spring of 1718. Benches were at first used, and persons were appointed at a town meeting to locate or seat the worshippers. Subsequently, pews were made around the walls, having fronts and partitions of wainscoting, with a balustrade upon the top. The pulpit was placed in the centre of the north side; and a gallery, about eight feet high, occupied the other sides. The pews were retained by the families to whom they were allotted, and their descendants, nearly one hundred years. On the occasion of the opening of the new meeting house, Mr. Hunting preached an appropriate discourse, and though the building was then in an unfinished state, the congregation continued thereafter to assemble in it.

In 1714, three of the inhabitants in attempting to pass near the outlet of Georgika Pond, were carried by the force of the current into the surf and drowned. This was the greatest number of persons that had met death at one time since the settlement, and the bereavement was severely felt. Notwithstanding the hazards of a frequent exposure upon the neighboring waters, only one previous death from drowning is found recorded. In September, 1719, Georgika Pond was the scene of another unfortunate occurrence of this kind. Three young persons and a slave returning to their home in Wayunscutt, on the Sabbath, were drowned when they had nearly

reached the shore. This calamity was succeeded by another of a similar character in the following February, when four of the inhabitants were drowned in the ocean opposite the town, from a boat "stove" by a whale. Such a number of deaths by casualty in the short space of a few months, cast a gloom over the town, which events so little to be anticipated and in so small a circle, could not fail to produce.

From 1722 to 1731, Samuel Hudson, of this town, filled the office of clerk of the county, and for many years that of clerk of the town. He early removed to Middletown, in Connecticut.

The proprietors of Montaukett became, in 1726, dissatisfied with the management in the hands of the trustees of the town, to whom it had been entrusted since the purchase, and placed it under the charge and discretion of five men selected from the tenants in common. This change continued for two years; when it was again committed to the care of the trustees, under whose control it has ever since remained.

In 1727, a new office was created, or one was filled which had previously remained vacant in the absence of any whose strong arm and steady eye were peculiarly fitted for the execution of its duties. R. Syme was chosen common whipper, at the compensation of three shillings in cash for each man whipped. The poor rate this year amounted to £23. 2s. 1d., and there were but five paupers on the poor list; the number certainly indicated a wholesome state of morals and general industry.

In 1728, Spanish pirates infested the seas and committed extensive depredations along the coast. In the first week of September, a piratical schooner of six guns and eighty men anchored in Gardiner's Bay. In the night, the crew landed upon the island for the purpose of plunder. The family of Mr. Gardiner had retired to rest, and, until their slumbers were disturbed by the shouts of the buccaneers and their attempts to break open the house, had no notice of their approach and were unconscious of danger. Having ascertained that all resistance would be unavailing, Mr. Gardiner, who had been for some time confined to his bed by sickness and was too ill for removal, committed his children and the females of his family to the care of an Indian, who had been domiciled with him as purveyor for his table from the waters and woods of the island, that he might transport them to the opposite shore. Some of them had already escaped from the house and concealed themselves among the shrubbery in the garden, while others had fled to a neighboring swamp. The Indian had fortunately left his canoe at a distance, and after having gathered together some of the fugitives, was enabled by a circuitous route to elude the vigilance of the pirates and

reach Accabonack harbor. The usual place of crossing the bay was strictly watched, to prevent information from being conveyed to the other side. Having made good an entrance into the house, the robbers proceeded to accomplish their designs. In the pursuit of plunder, they destroyed the furniture, opened the beds and scattered their contents to the air, and took possession of every table service, the bedding, clothing, and household articles of every description. Excepting a small silver tankard, which was seized by Mrs. Gardiner as she hurried from her dwelling, all the family plate fell into their hands. Towards those who remained, the ruffians exercised the most brutal treatment. Mr. Gardiner was severely wounded, and many of his laborers were cut by their weapons, and otherwise suffered from their violence. During several days, they continued their depredations upon the provisions and stock, and removed to their vessel every available article of value the island afforded. One man was taken on board and detained three days. On the third or fourth day information was got to New London, whence a boat was immediately sent to Rhode Island with the intelligence. The volunteers answered the beat of the drum, and two sloops, manned with seventy men each, under the command of Capt. John Clarke and Robert Elliott, set out in pursuit. Receiving word on the way from a person named Bebee, who had escaped from their hands, that the buccaneers remained at anchor under the island, they pushed forward with all expedition, but their approach was discovered or suspected, and the pirates escaped.

From their neighbors the people of the island had received no succor. They were themselves greatly alarmed, and had no means of assailing an enemy on the water. On the Sunday succeeding the departure of the pirates, Mr. Hunting preached from the text, "The bands of the wicked have robbed me," etc.; he availed himself of the occasion to reprove his people, in strong terms, for their want of preparation to defend themselves against an attack to which they were equally exposed, and the absence of any effort to assist their neighbors "as far as the law of humanity, which is God's law, bound them."

An account of the commonage, comprising the names of the owners, and their respective amounts, was ordered by the trustees, for the purpose of making a further division of the commons. Mr. Dominy, who had heretofore uniformly been employed as surveyor, was again selected, and proceeded, with the commissioners associated with him, to allot among the proprietors what was called ten acre divisions.

In 1738, Thomas Chatfield, a son of one of the first settlers of that name, possessed of a sound and discriminating mind, and qualified for the station by a previous exercise of the

duties of justice of the peace, in the reign of George II, was appointed one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas for the county. He continued to hold the office fourteen successive years, and until the period of his death. His son, John, was subsequently, under the reign of George III, appointed to the office of justice, and continued to exercise its duties until the political independence of the colony. He was a man of peculiar manners and mind; and by extensive reading, and a retentive memory, had treasured up much olden information, to which he had added, on a visit to London, interesting personal anecdote. His whole costume and bearing were ever of an age long anterior to his own, and might be referred back to the days of our pilgrim ancestors. With great self-possession, remarkably correct and deliberate in speech, and singularly quaint in language, he possessed an immovable expression of countenance, great gravity, and an air formal and erect. In historical reading, his knowledge was extensive and accurate; this was his favorite pursuit, and for it the cultivation of his farm was often neglected. At the fireside and in the study of his pastor, he found more congeniality than with the labors of the field; and he only abandoned his familiar resort when his reverend friend, by his second or third marriage, had strongly indicated a preference for the incidents of the present life to those of antiquity. Had circumstances given his lot a different direction, he might have been one of the greatest antiquarians of his day. He fitted for college under the care of the Rev. Mr. Hunting, and graduated at Yale, in 1735.

Eleazer Miller, the grandson of John Miller, whose name is among the grantees of the town, was, in 1748, elected a member of assembly, and continued to fill the station until 1769, a period of twenty-one years. His first service embraced a term of twenty years, and a second of one year. A continuance in office for so long a period, gained him the sobriquet of *Assemblyman* Miller, by which appellation he was more familiarly known than by his christian name. He was succeeded in office, after a warmly contested election, by Col. Woodhull. He lived to the great age of ninety, respected by his townsmen for his probity and hospitality.

Mr. Hunting continued to preach until 1746, with the temporary assistance of Mr. Mead. His broken health and advanced age admonished him that the period had arrived for the termination of his labors; and at his solicitation, his young assistant had been invited by the congregation to supply his place, preparatory to a future settlement.

Mr. Mead had, however, another destiny, and his future course was interrupted by sudden sickness and death. His manners were popular; his mind was well instructed in the

requisites of his profession: and he was a good scholar and attractive preacher. Much beloved by the people, his death was greatly lamented. The few of his sermons which have been preserved are systematically written, and forcibly and feelingly inculcate the principles of his faith.

This disappointment caused the congregation to seek another person to fill the place, and in November, 1745, Mr. Samuel Buel presented himself with a letter of introduction from the Rev. Aaron Burr. Mr. Buel had proceeded as far as Newark, on his way to Virginia, and had turned back to supply the vacancy in this town at the solicitation of President Burr and Mr. Tennant. The letter speaks of him as a pious, judicious, and ingenious young man, and an excellent preacher; and states that his destined journey would not have been stopped for any other place. Mr. Buel had partially prepared for his calling under the charge of Jonathan Edwards, then a minister at Northampton, in Massachusetts, and since so celebrated for his theological writings. He graduated at Yale College in 1741, and was ordained an itinerant preacher in 1743. From this period, he was among the most active of his profession in promoting, fostering and guiding the great awakening or religious excitement, which was then almost universal in the eastern and middle provinces. During the absence of Dr. Edwards, he had filled his pulpit with such great devotion—such zeal and warmth of expression and vividness of feeling—in promulgating to his congregation the sacred faith which had been taught him by that learned and pious man, as to increase materially the number of communicants. Proceeding to other parts of New England, he continued his fervent appeals in the churches, with unremitting industry and zeal. It was during the general excitement that he came to this town, and was settled on the 19th September, 1746.

The retirement of Mr. Hunting followed the installation of Mr. Buell, and was unbroken by any public employment during his future life. He was the son of Mr. John Hunting, who died at Dedham, in Massachusetts, in 1682, and whose father, of the same name, came from England in 1638, and settled at that place. Nathaniel was born at Dedham, November 15th, 1675, and graduated at Harvard College in 1693. He married Mary Green, and was the father, by this wife, of ten children, seven of whom attained maturity. His descendants are yet inhabitants of the town. Mr. Hunting was a man of mild, retiring manners, and most kind and generous feelings. He was a profound scholar in theological studies, and rigidly orthodox in the faith of his church. His sermons, of which a great number remain in manuscript, are methodically written, forcibly expressed, and abounding in scriptural

illustration. Upon the local affairs of his people, he declares his mind freely and firmly, as they may require in truth, censure or approval. His reflections upon the death of his grandchildren and friends, are imbued with so much piety and resignation, and with so deep a sensibility and tenderness, that they exhibit a heart full of gentle and amiable feelings. He died on the twenty-first day of September, 1753, in the seventy-sixth year of his age, having been the minister of the town for fifty years. The Rev. Mr. White, of Southampton, preached his funeral sermon, in which his learning and virtues were warmly commended.

One hundred years had, in 1750, elapsed since the first settlement of the town. The pioneers whose wanderings had here been stayed, and whose lives had been spent in reclaiming the wilderness, were now no more. The tomb had closed upon the whole of that generation, and their descendants numbered about seven hundred. The population had diminished by early and frequent removals of families and individuals, and had received few accessions by immigration. No maladies affected the health of the inhabitants, and they were not frequently visited by acute diseases. Consumptive affections were more prevalent; and the number of deaths from this complaint exceeded those from any of the ordinary maladies. Chronic rheumatism was frequent, yet seldom dangerous, and must be attributed to exposure to the moist atmosphere and damp winds of the sea coast. Bilious fevers rarely prevailed; intermittents, however, were during that period of frequent occurrence. A greater number of deaths arose from age and its infirmities. In 1712, of twenty-seven deaths, which exceeded any previous mortality in any one year, the ages of seven of the individuals amounted to five hundred and twenty-eight years.

In the years 1736-'38-'39, an epidemic disease called the throat distemper, which pervaded the New England and Middle Colonies, visited the town with increased mortality. During the intermediate year, 1737, there were only five deaths, being the smallest number in one year since 1696, when there were only three. The mortality of 1738 was materially increased by another disease called the lung fever. The former distemper in its incipient stage resembled a severe cold, but its general characteristics were a swelled throat, white or ash colored spots breaking out upon the skin, and great debility of the whole system, with a tendency to putridity. Under an apprehension that the disease was infectious, the alarm at first was very general, and in 1738 was much increased by the accompanying pestilence. The greatest mortality was among children. Seventy-eight persons died during the three years.

In 1742-'43, the dysentery prevailed, and increased the mortality of those years. This distemper then, for the first time, reached in its prevalence to an epidemic, though it had before occasionally affected individuals.

Upon the whole, the climate had been favorable to health and longevity; and probably a more salubrious atmosphere can not now be found. The heat of summer and the cold of winter is moderated by the adjacent ocean, and the winds which blow from over it, and notwithstanding the thermometer sometimes ranges between eighty and ninety degrees Fahrenheit for a few hours, yet the moisture of the atmosphere diminishes the influence of the heat upon the body, and the southwesterly winds, which usually set in by eleven o'clock in the morning, degrade the mercury to about seventy degrees. Fogs prevail for a short time in the spring, but are not considered unhealthy, and heavy dews during the summer mitigate the severity of drought.

The principal commercial intercourse was had with Boston, and several sloops were employed in the trade: among others, as early as 1705, the sloop *Endeavor*, Abraham Schellinx, master. Cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and oil, were bartered for lumber, the produce of the West India Islands, and "such articles as merchants deal in."

Agriculture had not been conducted with the spirit necessary to ensure a high state of cultivation. The lands had already begun to fail of their original productiveness; the crops were diminishing for want of attention to manuring, and the quantity of land under tillage decreased with the decreasing crops. More lands were thrown into pasture as tillage was abandoned, and the farm yards yielded less towards the means of production. Between the farm yard and tillage, there is perfect reciprocity; the contents of the former are increased by the productiveness of the latter, and the crops are enlarged by its consequent bounty. There is no stronger evidence of unskillful husbandry, than that the droppings of cattle are suffered to be wasted on a scanty pasturage. Other manures are not only expensive but are not easily obtained; and many are not congenial to all soils and all climates: the compost of the farm yard, however, gives a great and certain vitality to lands and crops, when properly applied, and is always within the command of the farmer. Fish were used as manure, and much time and labor were expended in obtaining them; their procurement was not always certain, and the crop was often lost in unsuccessful seasons. Sometimes, the seines were abandoned altogether, and then, after a period, inducements to further exertions would occasion a return to their use. To the present time these changes have continued. There was another cause for the decrease of cul-

tivation, which induced more reliance on the seasons, and less on art; the waters provided a ready sustenance, where labor was attended with excitement and amusement. And there was probably still another, less perceptible but more efficient cause, the increased consumption of ardent spirits.

In the war against the French Canadian possessions, which commenced in 1756, and ended in the conquest of Canada, in 1760, many active individuals enlisted from this county. Captains Elias Hand and Jonathan Baker, of this town, raised two companies, and were both at the attack of Ticonderoga by General Abercrombie, and present, under General Amherst, at the capture of Crown Point. They returned to their homes at the close of the operations of the war in the north.

The justices of the peace for the county, resident in this town, in 1763, were John Chatfield, Nathan Baker, Isaac Barnes, and Burnet Miller.

CHAPTER XIII.

WITH the termination of the French and Indian war, commenced that jealousy on the part of the British government of the future aspirations of the colonies, that led to the resistance of her measures, and those spirit-stirring times that preceded the war of the Revolution. The people of the town resented the conduct of the home parliament, and though disconnected by any present interest in the troubles at Boston, sympathized with those who shared in them, and held a meeting, of the proceedings of which the following is the record:

“At a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of East-hampton, in the county of Suffolk, legally warned by the trustees of said town, the 17th of June, 1774, Eleazer Miller, Esq., Moderator.

“1st, voted, That we will, to the utmost of our ability, assist and in a lawful manner defend the immunities of British America; that we will co-operate with our brethren in this colony, in such measures as shall from time to time appear to us the most proper and the best adapted to save us from the burthens we fear, and in a measure already feel, from the principles adopted by the British Parliament, respecting the town of Boston in particular, and the British colonies in North America in general.

“2d, voted, That a non-importation agreement through the

“colonies is the most likely means to save us from the present and further troubles.

“3d, voted, That John Chatfield, Esq., Col. Abraham Gardiner, Burnet Miller, Stephen Hedges, Thomas Wickham, Esq., John Gardiner, Esq., and Capt. David Mulford, be a standing committee for keeping up a correspondence with the City of New York and the towns of this colony; and if there is occasion, with other colonies; and that they transmit a copy of these votes to the Committee of Correspondence for the City of New York.

“Voted unanimously; not one contrary vote.

“BURNET MILLER, Town Clerk.”

The colonists had now taken up arms, and the ministerial army filled the town of Boston. It became at once apparent, not only to the inhabitants, but to the provincial congress and the chief officers in the continental service, that no portion of the coast was more exposed to the incursions of the enemy than the territory of Easthampton. Its capacious bays afforded a safe anchorage for shipping; it was not difficult to procure skillful and experienced pilots from other quarters; the country was stocked with valuable produce, and numerous herds and flocks gathered from all Long Island; and there was no inland to which the people could fly, carrying with them their grain, and driving before them their cattle. Every reason, therefore, existed to believe that as soon as their necessities demanded the British would make an incursion. This exigency soon presented itself; for the continental army at the north and the patriotic citizens of the Bay colony in a short time succeeded in cutting off all landward supplies from Boston and reducing the forces of the enemy to the most pressing want.

Notwithstanding the eminent hazard of all their present resources, the people of Easthampton did not hesitate to peril life and hope in the common cause. Opposition to the exactions of the ministry was nowhere more eager and strenuous. (We have already seen that the news of resistance at Boston drew from them an expression of warm sympathy; and that at the earliest moment, and long before the public recommendation to that effect, they appointed a committee of safety and correspondence.) When the articles of association, suggested by the continental congress, were remitted to them for signature, they came forward in a body, and without exception, a thing perhaps unparalleled in any other town, pledged themselves “never to become slaves.” The association was delivered into congress on the 22d June, 1775, was signed by John Chatfield, chairman of the committee, Colonel Abraham Gardiner, Burnet Miller, Esq., Dr.

Samuel Buel, Thomas Wickham, a member of the first congress, and two hundred and fifty-eight others, being all the male inhabitants then denizens of the town capable of bearing arms.

On the 5th of July the committees of East and Southampton, Burnet Miller chairman. united in representing to the provincial congress, that the stock on Montaukett, consisting of not less than two thousand neat cattle and three thousand or four thousand sheep, was, on account of its remoteness, indefensible by the inhabitants and greatly exposed to the ravages of the enemy. In consideration of these things and of their desire to withhold such support from their unnatural foes, they requested congress to petition Gen. Schuyler to place upon that peninsula a number of troops of which the company then raising among them should constitute a part, until they should be called to act in matters of more importance. They also set forth the perilous position of Gardiner's Island and the neighboring islands and points, and suggested that if the troops were sent, in accordance with their desire, a number of boats might easily be procured to transfer them from place to place, as necessity might require. The matter was referred to the consideration of Gen. Schuyler, and it is probable that officer was too weak in force and too much engrossed with greater projects to afford the succor requested; but future events proved the sagacity of the committees, and in the end the opinion obtained that two hundred soldiers would have defeated the designs of the enemy.

Toward the end of July, intelligence was received from Gen. Washington that the British fleet was in motion, and would probably make a descent on the east end of Long Island. Congress immediately communicated with the committee of Easthampton, advising that measures should be taken to secure the stock, and that the companies raised in the neighborhood for the continental service might be employed for that purpose until otherwise ordered. Much excitement and diversity of opinion ensued among the people; some thought the alarm unfounded; others believed the enemy at hand; and all were at a loss to know by what other means than resistance their property could be protected. It is not improbable that many already thought, that by their devotion to the cause, they had deserved some early assistance at the hands of the public authorities. In the midst of these perplexities, they united with the other towns of the county in prohibiting any cattle from being shipped off from the island, as it was found that under pretense of purchases for the West India market, supplies were procured for the British army at Boston. This resolution was communicated to congress on the 5th of August, and at the same time, the committee of Easthampton again urged upon that body their forlorn

situation. Perhaps congress was touched at this new evidence of self-denial and attachment to liberty; perhaps they yielded to the repeated solicitations; this, at least, is certain, that on the 7th of August, they not only exhorted the people to use their best endeavors to defeat the purposes of the enemy, and to put what troops they could raise under Col. Fanning, but ordered that that officer should be entrusted with the command of four companies which Gen. Wooster was requested to detach from his camp, and that Capt. Grinnel should repair without delay to their assistance and use his best endeavors to preserve the stock and protect the inhabitants from insult. Before these operations, which seem to have been commenced with vigor, but unfortunately at the last hour, could be carried into execution, the dangers anticipated were upon the people. On the 8th of August, the very day of these proceedings on the part of congress, the British fleet of thirteen sail appeared in Gardiner's Bay. It consisted of seven transports, two men-of-war, two brigs, one scow, and one armed schooner, carrying in addition to their usual force two hundred regulars. The enemy landed on Gardiner's Island and proposed to open a negotiation for the purchase of the stock and provisions, but Col. Gardiner, one of the executors of the estate of the late proprietor, and guardian of his children, resisted all their overtures, and used every exertion to protect the property. Despatches were sent to the neighboring shores and to Connecticut, to alarm and assemble the inhabitants, and the news quickly spread over the island.

The people of Easthampton were fully employed in providing against their own imminent danger, but volunteers from the western towns flocked in to the camp of Gen. Wooster at the Oyster Ponds, until at length it was supposed a thousand men had appeared to oppose the depredations of the regulars. On the 9th, Wooster wrote to Gen. Trumbull for ammunition, stating that he had under his command four hundred and fifty men besides the militia, and that the enemy were then freely plundering Gardiner's Island, which had been abandoned by the people. A large body of troops started on the same day for the scene of robbery, but were turned back by false intelligence, which represented the enemy as having departed; and so badly were affairs conducted, that though there was no want of time, or means of conveyance, out of the thousand men who had taken up arms, only one company of about forty reached Gardiner's Island, and arrived in time to see the British depart and the fleet under weigh.

In the meantime, when the enemy were satisfied that no purchases could be effected, they commenced forcible depredations, and from the 7th to the 11th, the day of their de-

parture, plundered the island of a great quantity of stock and produce. They conveyed to their ships nearly twelve hundred sheep, upwards of sixty head of cattle, and hogs, fowl, cheese, and hay, of the total value of between three and four thousand dollars. That he might escape the odium of robbery, and be revenged upon Col. Gardiner for the rebuff he had experienced at his hands, the British commander, Abijah Willard, on his departure, carried into execution a scheme that would not only have been disdained by a generous foe, but which was disgraceful to the private character of the man. He addressed to that gentleman a letter in the style of familiar correspondence, which carried with it the idea that they were on terms of friendly intercourse; that he had been invited to partake of the hospitalities of his house; that the descent upon the island had been preconcerted; that the form of resistance had been made only for the sake of appearances; and that the seeming forcible seizure was really nothing but a sale, the terms of which would be fulfilled by payment on the part of the purchaser. It was a proper adjunct to such an epistle that it gave a grossly false account of the extent of the robbery. This letter was then left upon the table of the drawing-room, to be discovered by the first comer, and to make its pretences more plausible, a guinea and a pistareen were placed beside it. It is most probable that the commander had already satisfied himself that it would fall into the hands of men who were strangers to Col. Gardiner; for a company from the camp of Gen. Wooster was already approaching the island, and landed upon it soon after the departure of the British. The letter was found, and communicated to the provincial congress. In the minds of those who had no personal acquaintance with the gentleman whose honor was sought to be impugned, and who was ignorant of his early and persevering devotion to the rights of the colonies, it produced the intended effect; and so apt are men, from impulses of envy or malice, to seize upon slander of the good, that it is possible there were not wanting those having better opportunities of knowledge who were ready to propagate and darken the suspicion. In the investigation which ensued, national friends and foes united in testifying to the integrity of Col. Gardiner, and every circumstance seemed more strongly to establish the iniquitous design of Willard. A captain in the enemy's service, who had been referred to in the letter as a mutual acquaintance, appeared, in his examination before a committee of the provincial congress, to have no personal knowledge of Col. Gardiner, and stated that he had heard from his friends among the regulars that the manager of Gardiner's Island had met their advances with an offensive bearing, and had refused all overtures of sale, and that when they had resorted

to force, he demanded that they should yet make reparation to the estate of which he was the executor. In the fulfilment of a fiduciary trust, and when resistance had proved unavailing, this last demand was just and honorable. At the earliest possible day, the 14th of August, the committees of the towns of Southampton, Easthampton, and Shelter Island, convened at Sag Harbor, examined witnesses under oath, and declared that Col. Abraham Gardiner, Thomas Wickham and David Mulford, Esqs., and the other executors, were entirely free from any dishonorable imputation, and that the reflections industriously propagated and spread abroad concerning them were altogether groundless. These gentlemen had not only already given abundant pledges, but proved themselves ever after the most active and inflexible friends of liberty.

Capt. Wickham was at this time a member of the provincial congress, and on the first news of the descent of the enemy, obtained leave of absence and repaired to Gardiner's Island. The executors immediately united in a statement which was presented to congress on the 21st of August, setting forth the loss which the estate had suffered by the depredations of the forces under Gen. Gage; showing by the certificates of the committees of the eastern towns, and by the affidavits of individuals, that the depredations were forcible, and that freeholders in the province of Massachusetts Bay were principal actors in them; and finally, petitioning congress to address the abuse of representatives of that colony and request them to make reparation to the injured children of David Gardiner, deceased. On the 24th, congress conformed to the petition: but the reparation sought was probably never made.

The losses already sustained, and an anxious desire on the part of the inhabitants to cut off the ministerial army from such supplies, induced congress on the 23d of August to appoint a committee to take into consideration the state of the stock on Gardiner's Island and Montaukett, and report what action was advisable in relation thereto. But with regard to the former plan, the most reasonable means of security had been already recommended by congress on the 18th of the same month, when it had advised the committee of Easthampton to remove the stock from the island. This recommendation of congress was carried into effect; desolation was adopted as the only means of safety; and before the 1st of September, all the stock, of every description, had been conveyed from Gardiner's Island. But in respect to Montaukett, such measures were impracticable, and what would be the proper course of action, became a matter of serious consideration and discussion.

The presence of Gen. Wooster in the county had hitherto afforded some relief to the anxieties of the inhabitants, which

was raised to the highest pitch by the declaration of the enemy, that they would come again, with a force sufficient to plunder all Long Island; but in the latter part of August, he received orders to march to another quarter, and his continually threatened departure was a source of the greatest vexation. The general committee of Suffolk, and the committees of Easthampton and Southampton, repeatedly urged upon congress their defenceless situation and the necessity of an armed force at the east end of the island, and Wooster himself declared that no portion of the country was more exposed. The companies raised among them for the continental service, composing their chief strength and holding the greater part of their arms and ammunition, were directed to join the general army at the north, and the people seemed thus likely to be deprived of all reliance upon themselves. In answer to their representations, congress gave and probably could give nothing but advice. In the month of July preceding, the continental government had ordered, that one-fourth of the militia in every colony should be selected as minute men, duly organized, and ready at the shortest notice to march to any place where their assistance might be required. The committee of Suffolk was therefore recommended to comply at once with this order, and post one or two companies of the minute men so raised on or near Montaukett, whose duty it should be to drive off the cattle immediately upon the discovery of any suspected vessels. At the same time they advised that the English bay should be removed from Gardiner's Island. On the 9th of September, it was answered, with some vexation, to their recommendations, that the demands made upon them for the continental service had left them equally destitute of men and ammunition; that they had ordered out their militia that they might raise a company to send directly to Montaukett, which was then without a soldier to guard it; that they despaired of being able to fit out more than one company; and that if sufficient force was not sent to their aid, and Gen. Gage's troops should come upon them, they should be under the disagreeable necessity of complying with the terms that might be imposed. In reply, the committee of safety, which, in the recess of congress, was transacting on its part such business as could not be intermitted, reiterated the advice previously given, and expressed rather abruptly its inability to furnish them even with any ammunition. On the next day, however, they ordered that 100 pounds of powder for the use of the people of Suffolk county should be delivered on the payment of cash. It must by this time have become apparent to the people, that neither the continental nor the provincial government would afford them any competent assistance: and

they awaited in painful expectation the approach of the enemy and the ruin of their fortunes. Though mindful of their patriotic devotion, they felt much disappointment, and lamented the hardship of their lot, their attachment to the cause was nothing abated. At this remote day, we can appreciate at once the trying circumstances of their situation, and the wisdom and necessity of the course pursued by the superior authorities.

Gen. Wooster's departure was delayed at the suggestion of Gen. Washington, who, under date of August 23d, wrote that he had received advices from Boston that a number of transports had sailed on a second expedition for fresh provisions, having probably Montaukett for their destination. This supposition proved unfounded, and Wooster marched to join the northern army. On the 25th August, it was reported to the colonial committee of safety that several ships had sailed from Boston and steered westward, and that body immediately addressed the committees of East and Southampton, urging them to be vigilant and active in the preservation of their property. As in the former case, the alarm excited by their communications was found to be premature.

Their safety had been so much prolonged, and their expectations of an incursion by the ministerial army had been so frequently and happily disappointed, that the people were now aroused from their lethargy to new hopes and exertions. On the 24th of January, 1776, the general committee of the county again addressed congress, and expressed a confidence that the continent proposed to defend and protect the island, and that in consideration of its extent and the exposedness of the eastern end of it, troops and ammunition sufficient for its safety would be supplied. On the 8th of February, the committees of South and Easthampton and Shelter Island convened at Sag Harbor, addressed a memorial to congress setting forth that, in the strongest confidence of its benevolent purpose of stationing among them a force sufficient, "with Heaven's blessing, to deliver and defend them from British attacks and ministerial vengeance," they had "in their low capacity but in high spirits," presumed to lay an embargo prohibiting the sale and exportation of all provisions until the 1st day of March ensuing, or until the sense of congress could be taken on the subject; intending by this course to insure for the forces that might be placed among them means of subsistence, which it would not be possible to obtain without great difficulty, "when, as was menaced, their unnatural foes should invest them by land and by sea." This memorial concluded with these words: "We beg you will not compel us to flee before our enemy, but detach to our defence such

ample number of troops sufficient, in conjunction with our own, to answer this important purpose, and in your wisdom, continue and confirm the above-mentioned embargo." The high spirits expressed in this memorial, as well as the embargo resolved upon, had doubtless been induced by the fact, that the provincial congress were now at length attempting to raise four companies for the defence of the colony and the prevention of depredations on Long Island. On the 24th, congress approved of this embargo, and recommended it to be made general throughout the county, which was accordingly done by order of the general committee; but on the 15th of the following month, when the hope of affording armed protection was probably abating, it was ordered to be left in the discretion of that committee to continue the measure (after the 1st of April ensuing,) or not.

On the 6th of March, the prize ship Sally, which had been owned in New York and captured by the enemy, was driven ashore at Montaukett in a gale of wind. The committee of Easthampton ordered the captain, who was mate of the Asia man-of-war, and fourteen other persons, including ten seamen, to be taken into custody, and after an examination had been made and minuted, they were sent under guard to New York. This hostile proceeding little recommended the people to the good will of their foes.

At this period, congress was informed of advices from Washington and Greene, stating that from certain movements in the camp of the regulars, suspicions were entertained that they were on the point of abandoning Boston. The committee of Easthampton was therefore instructed to station suitable persons at the places most proper for observing the approach of a fleet. A guard was accordingly posted at Montaukett, and on the 22d of March descried twenty sail of square rigged vessels apparently standing for Rhode Island. This information was immediately communicated, and congress was solicited to furnish assistance to the inhabitants, who were destitute of men and ammunition. The Committee of Safety thereupon ordered that a large quantity of ammunition should be dispatched for the use of the people of Suffolk; and that Brig. Gen. Woodhull, in case of any sudden invasion, should make such disposal of the militia of his brigade as as he might deem most discreet, without awaiting any directions from the provincial authorities, the committee of the county, or the commander-in-chief of the continental forces. Contemporaneously with these proceedings, the public buildings of the city, owing to the deficiency of the supply, were ordered to be stripped of lead. These precautions proved premature; for the British fleet, on the 26th, set sail from Nantaskett Roads for Halifax, there to await orders and rein-

forcements, leaving behind them a number of armed vessels to protect such shipping as might be bound to Boston on their arrival.

When it became known that the ministerial army had determined to abandon Boston, with the probable intention of invading New York, the strongest fears were entertained for the safety of the inhabitants and property at the east end of Long Island. Congress, yielding to the general opinion, requested that the three companies raised in Suffolk county, and designed for the continental service, might remain and be subject to the orders of Gen. Woodhull; and Gen. Lee was detached from the continental army in Massachusetts, for the protection of New York and Long Island. In July, Col. Livingston was in command of the troops stationed in Suffolk, at the east end of the island, and using every exertion to provide for the security of the stock at Montaukett and other places; and the Commissary General had been desired to lay up the marketable provision in that quarter, while boats should be provided for the removal of the rest in case of danger.

Meanwhile, on the 7th of April, the enemy's vessels, those doubtless that had been left behind by the main fleet for the protection of British interests, were discovered by the look-outs at Easthampton, in the bay on the north, and at sea on the south; and as the inhabitants were ignorant of the course actually taken by the enemy, they supposed that the descent so long and implicitly expected, was at length on the point of consummation. A constant cannonade was kept up throughout the day from both quarters, that the ships might not stray in the fog, and ringing upon the nerves of the people, raised the most painful apprehensions. They gathered together without delay: a company was formed upon the spot: Captain Dayton was invested with the command, and Dr. Buell, laying aside his sacerdotal robes, appeared armed for resistance if necessary. Haste was made to Montaukett to prevent depositions on the stock, and though the enemy attempted a landing, the small band presented such an appearance of numbers by circuitous marches and a variety of disguises, that they relinquished the undertaking and returned to Boston. The people were highly elated at the result, and soon ascertained that their greatest fears had been without foundation.

After tarrying a short time at Halifax, the enemy resolved on the immediate execution of their designs, and setting sail for New York, landed without opposition on Staten Island, and there established their headquarters. Upon the evacuation of Boston, Washington had marched to New York, and in command of a necessitous and irregular militia, opposed to a numerous, well supplied, and well disciplined army, now held that city by the frailest tenure. At Boston the regulars

had been more annoyed by the deprivation of their supplies than by any other hostile measures. It naturally occurred to congress that it might in the present circumstances be advisable to pursue the same policy. It was evident that the ministerial army must look to Long Island for fresh provisions, and there were then but two ways of depriving them of this resource; either by the desolation or the armed occupation of the country. If the former measure was adopted it could only be made effectual by extending it over the whole island, and in that case a large population would be thrown upon the world without homes or the means of supporting life, it would be necessary, if such a thing were possible, to destroy or remove more than one hundred thousand horned cattle, and other stock in proportion, leaving thirty thousand human beings without the means of support, reduced from affluence to starvation. The idea had only to be entertained to be rejected, and on the 20th of July, congress resolved that a removal of the stock, excepting such as were fit for the army, was impolitic and impracticable. It was therefore ordered, that, while every family, according to its numbers, should be allowed to retain a certain number of cows, the common stock in all the country should be collected in secure places, from whence they could be driven on the first alarm; that one quarter of the minute men and militia should be drafted and properly organized, and have it as their duty to guard and secure the stock so collected; that when it was found impossible otherwise to preserve such stock from the hands of the enemy, the commanding officer should order it to be killed or destroyed; that the owners of stock so destroyed should on proper proof be compensated for their loss, provided they had not joined, and did not join the enemy; that the minute men and militia should be held in readiness to march to any part of the island at the shortest notice, with five days provisions: that the necessity of adequately protecting the island on account of its great value, and vast importance to the country, should be urged upon the continental congress; and that Gen. Washington should be informed that it might be proper for the commissary general to give the stock in that region a preference in his purchases, on account of its exposed situation. Thus did the exigencies of the continentals, as well as the hostilities of the regulars, impose upon the people great hardship and inconvenience, all of which they bore for the glory of the cause in which they had embarked. The letter of the president of the convention to Gen. Washington, enclosing these resolutions, concluded with the following paragraph: "I cannot conclude without expressing my wishes that the detachment under Lt. Col. Livingston may be continued at their present post, for that part (the east end,) of the island is so

much exposed to be insulted by the enemy's cruisers, that I fear the inhabitants would totally abandon the country should those troops be drawn off."

On the 26th of August, before these measures could be fully carried into effect, the British landed on Long Island, in preference to New York, on account of its richness in those supplies which they needed. To describe the exciting scenes of advance, contention, misfortune and retreat which then ensued, would be more interesting than appropriate to the history of a theatre in which they were not enacted. If the inhabitants of Easthampton had felt great apprehension at the proximity of the enemy when they first held Boston, and then afterwards possessed themselves of Staten Island, that feeling was greatly augmented when they had made a footing on the very soil they inhabited; but, on the other hand, the equal exposure of other portions of the province induced them to bow more submissively to their fate. Many of their friends were now within the American lines, actively engaged in the continental service, being part of the company raised by their fellow townsman, Ezekiel Mulford, a farmer, whose bravery and energy in the battle of Long Island was well commended. This company had been addressed at the moment of its departure from the town by Dr. Buel, who exhorted them in glowing language to a patriotic performance of duty, and asked upon this enterprise the blessing of heaven.

On the 28th, congress requested the governor of Connecticut to send a thousand troops to the aid of the inhabitants of Long Island, their own strength being within Gen. Washington's lines, and therefore not available for the defence; and at the same time all the towns on the coast of Connecticut were respectively addressed, and exhorted to lend their assistance. On the next day, the same body, probably foreseeing coming events, recommended with doubtful wisdom, that the people should remove as many of their women, children and slaves, and as much of their live stock and grain to the main as was possible, at the provincial expense. On the day ensuing, Washington judiciously abandoned the island, and the British were at length unrestrained. When these things came to their ears, the most intense feeling pervaded the people of the town; it was not consternation or dismay, but a deep, subdued anxiety, partaking of that sublimity of spirit that characterized the men of the revolution. In view of the crisis and of the recommendation of congress, they consulted together as to what measures should be adopted. Some were in favor of removal; others saw that by adopting such a course they would be confronting ruin to themselves and beggary to the poor families dependent upon their exertions;

and others, again, the aged and infirm, who would be a burden anywhere else, thought they could best serve the country by remaining and abiding their time. According to their various opinions did they conduct themselves. Some remained from one motive or another. Others, with the zealous and active assistance of Lt. Col. Livingston, embarked in the boats, which for days passed and repassed to the Connecticut shore, freighted with inhabitants of Long Island, all of whom had abandoned their firesides and native homes; some with nothing but the clothes they wore, and others with such of their worldly goods as could be borne in the exigency. The poor became a burden upon the well affected of that state, and in some instances led a miserable and wandering life; and the provincial congress might afterwards have seen its error, when it was vexed with the complicated claims of those who had, or pretended to have given, shelter and sustenance to those unfortunate people.

Such as were able bodied and young, such as could bear the expense of their own transmigration and support, and such as from the prominent position of themselves or members of their families had most to fear, exercised a reasonable prudence in departing, and in many cases were enabled abroad to make themselves useful in the popular cause. Burnet Miller retired within the American lines, and becoming a member of assembly for the county, held that station during the continuance of the war. Thomas Wickham, who had been an active member of the provincial congress, established himself at Stonington in Connecticut, where he annoyed the British in command of a sloop of eight guns. He at one time attempted with small armed boats a surprise upon the enemy's forces at Sag Harbor. Major Davis, who had also removed to Connecticut, and who then held a partisan command, together with Captain Grimmel, who at an early period of the year had been active in Suffolk county, also engaged in this enterprise, and commanded two of the boats, which were unfortunately driven ashore. The crews were captured and made prisoners by a Hessian major, and about twenty light horse, and the attempt was made to fire the boats, but Wickham succeeded in bringing them off. Major Davis was taken to the city of New York, and then, in one of the damp and fœtid dungeons of the old provost, the prison and the tomb of as many patriots, lingered awhile, and died.

Those that resolved to await the course of events, were in some cases, subsequently obliged to retreat within the American lines in order to escape the demands of the enemy; but the greater portion remained throughout the revolution with but little molestation. The situation of these was, perhaps, the most trying, not only to their endurance, but to their pat-

riotism and integrity. However, neither the bribes nor allurements with which they were tempted, neither the honors nor the threats held out by the enemy, could induce them to resign the principles to which they had plighted their faith. This devotion was worthy of the more honor when it is considered, that, not foreseeing the end, and being exposed by that means to the greatest calamities, perhaps not being duly sensible of the evils that should be patiently borne in revolutionary times, the people looked upon the continent as having, in the abandonment of Long Island, deserted them in their distress, and delivered them over bound to the mercies of the foe. Considering the determination with which they clung to that political creed which Britain esteemed a heresy, it must be acknowledged that they were, upon the whole, treated by them with great leniency.

A division of the British army established itself at Southampton, where also the tory governor, Tryon, took up his quarters. It having been determined to attempt a resuscitation of the royal government, those who held appointments from the king, whether civil or military, were called upon to resume the duties of their respective offices. In Easthampton none were found to comply, and Col. Gardiner was put under arrest, and threatened with the penalties of martial law, for refusing to call out the militia. Perceiving the vigor with which they were opposed, and the folly of resorting to forcible measures, the British made little further effort to secure the friendship or subdue the spirit of the inhabitants.

The foraging parties of the enemy daily visited the town, and sometimes depredated upon property, and inflicted personal injury upon the inhabitants. These acts, generally proceeded from inferior officers, and when discovered by their superiors were not countenanced, but severely punished. Orders, however, emanated from the commander-in-chief, and were often rigidly enforced, calling for provisions and labor, sometimes at improper seasons, and when they could be rendered only with inconvenience or great loss. Carts and teams were impressed, laboring cattle killed, and hay and grain seized upon whenever the wants of the army required it, without regard to the necessities of the owner; and though payment was generally made, the incidental loss and trouble was never remunerated.

Many robberies were committed by tories who came over from the neighboring shores, or had attached themselves to the British camp, and indeed this class of persons were looked upon with the most bitter hatred and indignation. Small bands of soldiers, also, prowling about the village and its environs, in the night time, kept the people in alarm, and required constant watchfulness. Capt. Dayton, a man of great

courage and decision, whose dwelling was alone in the woods, near the creek bearing his name, which empties into Georgika pond, was aroused in the night by an attempt of one of these bands to break into his house. He despatched his little son, the only other inmate, by a back door, to seek aid, but he himself determined to defend his property. Seizing upon a musket heavily loaded, he called upon the assailants to desist, and declared that he would shoot the first one that should present himself. They immediately fired into the house, and several shots entered the post of a loom behind which Dayton was stationed. He, on the other hand, retained his fire until the door yielded to their efforts, meanwhile calling aloud, as if to friends at hand, to be prepared, and then discharged his gun. The marauders fled. The next day the sudden death of a soldier transpired at Bridgehampton, and indications in the sand about the house and in the road, strengthened and confirmed the belief that Capt. Dayton had killed this man.

A detachment of the British troops was stationed at Sag Harbor, under the command of Major Cockrane, who became extremely obnoxious on account of his insolence, vindictive feelings, and cruel conduct. Several of the people of Easthampton suffered from the lash inflicted by his orders, and from unprovoked cuts of his broadsword. He delighted in punishment, more especially when administered by his own hand, and authentic stories of his cruelties are related that would be disgraceful to a savage.

The British fleet, under the command of Admiral Arbuthnot, remained during the winter of 1780-'81 in Gardiner's Bay. Requisitions were made weekly upon the inhabitants for provisions, and payment made for such as were accordingly furnished. The discipline observed by this force favorably contrasted with that of the army. As an enemy they were without reproach. A mutual and pleasant intercourse was sustained, on mutual concessions which involved no sacrifice of principles.

An order was made by the general requiring the people to assemble on a particular day to take the oath of allegiance. A few attended, some took it, and others found means of avoiding it. One Bennet was ordered by the officer who administered the oath to repeat after him what he should say. Instead of proceeding with the oath, the officer thereupon gave some further directions respecting it; which was immediately repeated by Bennet. The officer explained, and Bennet repeated the explanation. The officer denounced his stupidity, and Bennet repeating the abuse with undisturbed gravity, was turned away as a fool. He thus intentionally avoided the oath, and on account of the ridicule this conduct cast

upon the whole affair, the officer proceeded no farther and the meeting dispersed.

In the spring the fleet left the anchorage in pursuit of the French squadron which had wintered at Newport. In passing to sea a ninety gun ship, the Culloden, went on shore at Montauk, near Shagwagoneck, and another ran upon a rock at the point. The armament of the former was taken out and the ship burned, and the latter sunk.

While the army remained at Southampton some of the officers occasionally quartered themselves in this village. Many were the merry meetings which were held by them and the roisterers of the town, who frequented the public house then kept by Nathaniel Hunting. If the old wainscotting of that ancient building could speak, of what high merriment and frolicking, of what oceans of flip, foaming under the application of the heated poker; of what cans of well-tempered punch and gin toddy, would it not relate! What jests, and songs, and stories that raised peals of roaring laughter, and what friendly greetings and amalgamation of joyous hearts, when Lord Percy, Lord Cathcart, the unfortunate Andre, and other young men of equal standing who constituted the families of Tryon and Erskine, met to disport themselves, could it not disclose! No political questions disturbed the company, and no air of superiority over the wits of the village kept them aloof. Whatever person or thing could add joy to the present moment and was proper to be tolerated, was freely admitted. Even within the door, the ebony face of old Sharper, the slave, companion and friend of his master (Stratton,) was often seen, not obtrusively, but in answer to the call of those who were acquainted with his shrewd pleasantry, apt remark, joyous face, and inimitable power of burlesque and jollity. This was neutral ground, and the reproachful epithet of rebel and traitor was not heard. These persons had no vindictive feelings to gratify, and it was held here at least to sink everything that might lead to collision of sentiment. It was out of the power of the people to control the state of affairs, and it would have been folly to increase the evils of their situation by morose and violent conduct.

Major Andre quartered at the house of Col. Gardiner several weeks, and his gentlemanly deportment and generous feelings won the esteem of the family. Doctor Nathaniel Gardiner, the son of Col. Gardiner, was a surgeon in the northern division of the American army during the war, and was on a visit to his father at this period. Having come within the British lines he was liable to be seized as a spy, and though the family took every precaution to conceal his presence, it was soon perceived that Andre was not without knowledge of it. He forbore, however, any allusion to it, and subsequently expressed a regret that their relative situations had prevented

him from soliciting an interview. Andre afterwards repaired to New York, and his ultimate fate is well known. On the night preceding his untimely death, the young surgeon whom he had thus encountered, enjoyed, by a strange coincidence, the melancholy pleasure of his society. He left with the family several memorials of friendship, and tradition relates how, on one occasion, at the command of Sir Henry Clinton, he entertained them with a masterly recital of the inimitable ballad of Chevy Chase. Dr. Gardiner studied surgery and physic under Dr. Turner, and subsequently under Drs. Shippen and Rush, of Philadelphia. He continued in the army until the end of the war, and in 1786, '89, and '90, was a member of the state legislature. Col. Gardiner finding his residence in Easthampton unpleasant, and even hazardous, removed with his family to Stonington, Connecticut, whither Capt. Wickham and others had preceded him. With his friend Mr. Buel, he had been active in behalf of his neighbors, and had used the influence he had acquired in his intercourse with the British officers, to insure the protection of their persons and property. His house had been a refuge for those who sought protection from the abuse of inferior officers, and were desirous of obtaining redress from the commander-in-chief. Upon the conclusion of peace he returned to the town, and here he continued to reside until his death.

Mr. Buel, who was on friendly and intimate terms with Gov. Tryon, and who from his lively disposition, ready wit, and fondness for the chase, was a favorite of Sir William Erskine, often had it in his power to mitigate the severity of their orders by his intercession, which was seldom refused when timely made. He often joined the table parties of the commander and governor, which he enlivened by humorous anecdotes and an excitable disposition. On one occasion he was behind the hour appointed for a deer hunt to which he had been invited. The commander had detained the party, which was principally composed of younger officers, who were impatient of the delay. They were already mounted, but perceiving his friend Buel, he required them to dismount and receive him. Lord Percy, afterwards Duke of Northumberland, and then an aid-de-camp, was, while impatiently pacing the floor, introduced to Mr. Buel, who thereupon asked him what portion of his majesty's forces he had the honor to command. Percy, whose ill humor had been raised by the order to dismount, replied, "a legion of devils, just from hell." "Then," said Buel, with a low obeisance, "I suppose I have the honor to address Beelzebub, the prince of devils." The repartee was so severely felt as to induce his lordship to put his hand upon his sword. This was instantly rebuked by Sir William, and though the laughter of his friends was turned upon Percy, long before the chase had ended, the pleasantry, politeness, and marked attentions

of the parson, had not only restored him to good humor, but had forced him to admire and respect the man, whom in his passion he had denominated an old rebel. Mr. Buel made no concealment of his whig principles, and on proper occasions did not hesitate to avow them. Meeting with him at another time, and on the Saturday of the week, Sir William remarked that he had ordered the people of his parish to appear on the morrow with their teams at Southampton. To which Mr. Buel replied that he was aware of it; but that he was commander-in-chief on that day, and had annulled the order. The precedence was pleasantly admitted, and the order revoked by the general.

Thus did the towns-people, at home and abroad, pass the war of the revolution. Success crowned the efforts of the country, and a treaty of peace was signed on the third of September, 1783. The termination of this contest restored soldiers and refugees to their homes, and long parted neighbors and relatives eagerly embraced, amid thanksgiving and congratulation at their safe return and the political redemption of the colonies. Sadly, however, did memory recall some to whom it was not given to receive the greetings of friends, or join in the glory of the triumph. Of those who engaged in the continental service five or six only survived to receive the bounty of the government.

It is difficult to take leave of this period without contrasting the features which marked it, in every portion of the country, with those developed in our own times. The strife was not then who should grasp emoluments, but who should do their country service. Men thought not of sacrificing honor and good repute to possess themselves of the mere luxuries of life. Grave offenders did not go abroad with impunity and brave the institutions of society. That lax morality and morbid frivolity, which views as venial even heinous crimes, provided they be softened by adventitious considerations, was not then emulated, and did not then gain for its possessor the reputation of an amiable person. The disparagements of envy and malice found no approving ear, but all sought to elevate one another and thus all were elevated. A high and noble tone seemed to have been inspired by the magnitude of the labor to which they had devoted their energies: it pervaded their writings and public proceedings, and even their conversation and social intercourse. The deepest interest was felt for the character of the revolution, and every one endeavored to show himself fit to possess and exercise the rights declared inherent and inalienable. Corruption is not the necessary though the general concomitant of success and prosperity, and the continued existence of a good government can only be secured by the continued exercise of those virtues that gave it foundation.

CONCLUSION.

The neglect which husbandry sustained during the Revolutionary War had diminished the productiveness of the soil; and the loss of living fence, in the destruction of the prim or privet hedges, had not only considerably enhanced the farmer's expenses, but had detracted much from the favorable appearance of the fields. In the month of bloom, the beauty and fragrance of this shrub, which everywhere in thick set lines surrounded the enclosures, was surpassingly splendid. The atmosphere was perfumed during the period of blossoms, and the dark and dense foliage happily contrasted with the lighter green tint of the herbage. The consumption and intermittent fever, which prevailed about this time to an extent before unknown, were charged by many to the malignant qualities of this beautiful and useful shrub; not that there was any evidence of this, but because there appeared to many in this a possible cause. It had, therefore, been doomed to the axe, long before it was destroyed by the blasts of the atmosphere, and if the decree of Providence had not interfered it would doubtless have fallen soon before the rashness of ignorance. It is well understood that the vegetable creation is fed by the absorption by its foliage of that part of atmospheric air most injurious to animal life, and that trees, instead of detracting from, add to the chances of health and longevity. Consumptive complaints are not confined to localities. They are found more or less under every climate, and are like most other diseases, derived from hidden and inscrutable causes.

From 1747 to 1775 there had been in the town 650 deaths and 1,016 births. The years 1773 and 1775 were remarkable for the great number of births; there were 50 in each year. In 1752 and 1771 there were in each year 38 deaths. In 1763 there was 37, and in 1753 36 deaths. The smallest number was in the year 1749.

Sag Harbor, a small part of which lies within the bounds of this town, had been occupied by the British during the war of the revolution, and suffered a suspension of all trade. As early as 1760, when yet the commerce of New York was

carried on principally with schooners and sloops, a small trade was had from this port with the West Indies. Col. Gardiner owned two brigs engaged in that trade, and there were several sloops employed in the fisheries and coasting business, partially owned by the inhabitants of this town. On the conclusion of the war, Doctor N. Gardiner and his brother, purchased a ship called the Hope, and sent her upon a whaling voyage, under the command of Capt. Ripley, she being the first ship that sailed from Sag Harbor. About the same time they despatched upon a like voyage a brig of the first class. These voyages were unsuccessful, and the parties sustained an almost total loss of their investment. The Hope returned with only twenty or thirty barrels of oil, and the brig was yet more unfortunate. This was an unprosperous beginning, and their future efforts gave no encouragement for further prosecution of the business. Subsequent adventures, were, however, more successful, and the port has since become the third or fourth in importance in this branch of commerce in the United States.

A spirited effort, promoted chiefly by Mr. Buel, Doctor N. Gardiner and William Payne, was made in 1784 for the erection of an academy by individual subscription. Dr. Gardiner contributed largely in funds and personal exertions. On its completion, Mr. Payne, who had previously taught a grammar school, conducted the institution as teacher, and for many years was very successful. Under his care and instruction, and that of his associate Mr. Peck, the academy flourished and was filled with students from abroad. Remote states and even the West India Islands, to which the fame of the institution had extended, contributed to swell the number of pupils. Shortly after its erection, it was gratuitously surrendered by its proprietors to the Regents of the University of the state of New York, and was incorporated by them in the name of Clinton Academy, being the first incorporated by the state.

The Rev. Samuel Buel died July 19th, 1798, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. He was born at Coventry, in the then Colony of Connecticut, September 1st, 1716. His father was a farmer. A natural warmth of disposition, and an imaginative mind, gave to his character an enthusiastic tendency. In whatever he engaged, he pursued his purpose with great ardor and perseverance. In the pulpit, the decision and solemnity of his countenance was extraordinarily impressive; and the fervor and earnestness of his manner engaged and retained the solemn attention of his hearers. His voice was strong, and his speech loud, with a cadence not unpleasant. His action was forcible and often violent; the fall of his hand on the top of the pulpit giving no tolerance to the repose of the sleeper. For the advancement of the faith, his

labors in the ministry were unremitted; indeed he was always active and sometimes impetuous. The style of his sermons has the fault of being rather diffuse; but they are neither lukewarm nor undecided. He dealt with his people in the thunder of the law and the threatenings of the word more generally than in the unsophisticated truths of the gospel; yet a warm tone of benevolence and charity pervades many of his discourses. He published by the press fourteen sermons, besides a narration of the revival of 1764. In a note to a sermon published in 1775, he says, "I desire to mention it with humility and gratitude that I have not by bodily indisposition been prevented from preaching one Sabbath for above twenty-nine or now quite thirty years; nor have I had a day's sickness during the same space of time." He occasionally indulged in poetry, and his little performances are not without merit. Most of his verses are of a devotional cast, and are imbued with that due sanctity, which ever on religious subjects, seemed to control his fancy. The poem "Youth's Triumph," which was written and made public at the desire of a number of young people, contains the greatest number of stanzas of any of his performances, and has much harmony of versification. His colloquial powers were respectable, and having a lively wit and a warm fancy, his conversation on general topics was amusing and instructive. Delighting in society and the enjoyment of social intercourse, his doors were open to a large circle of friends and acquaintances. In the pursuits of the chase he was ever ready with the foremost, and he was pleased to detail to old sportsmen anecdotes of his successful hunts and happy shots. He was small of stature, but possessed of uncommon vigor of body, and was fond of violent exercise. A bold and fearless rider, he retained his activity in the saddle till late in life. His visits, in performance of his parochial duties, were always cheerfully and hospitably received; and his conversational talent, and great store of anecdote, insured him a welcome from the young and the old. A vivid reminiscence of every matter pertaining to the character of Mr. Buel is still retained among his surviving parishioners, accompanied with a grateful sense of his eminent and valuable services. The degree of S. T. D. was conferred upon him by Dartmouth College. He was married three times, and his last wife still survives. He had eight children, one only of whom, the widow of the Rev. Aaron Woolworth, is living.

APPENDIX.

Copy Deed for the Town of Easthampton, dated April ye 29th, A. D. 1651.

These present wrighting testifieth an agreement betwixth the worship'ill Theophilus Eaton, Esquire, Gover'r of the Colony New Haven, and the worship'ill Edward Hopkins, Esquire, Governor of the Colony Conoticut, and their associates on the one parte, and Poyatasut, Sachem of Manhansuk, Wyandansh, Sachem of Mantacut, Momowotom, Sachem of Chorehake, Nowedonah, Sachem of Shinacoke, and their associates the other part, the said Sachems having sould unto the foresaid Mr. Eaton and Mr. Hopkins with their associates, all the Land lying from the bounds of the Inhabitants of Southampton unto the East side of Napeak next unto Meantacut high land with the whole breadth from Sea to Sea, not intr trenching upon any in length or breadth which the Inhabitants of Southampton have and do possess, as they, by Lawfull right, shall make appear, for and in consideration of Twenty coats, Twenty-four hoes, Twenty-four hatchets, Twenty-four knives, Twenty-four looking glasses, one Hundred muxes already received by us, the fore named Sachems for ourselves and associates, and, in consideration thereof, we do give up unto the said purchasers, all our right and interest in the said Land to them and their Heirs forever; also do bind ourselves to secure their right from any claims of any others, whether Indians or other nation whatsoever that do or may hereafter Challenge interest therein; also we, the said Sachems, have covenanted to have liberty fflow, & to fish in any or all the Cricks and ponds, and Hunting up and down in the woods without molestation, they giving the English inhabitants no Just offence or injury to their goods and Chattles, likewise they are to have the fins and tails of all such whales as shall be cast up, to their proper right And desire they may be friendly dealt with in the other part; also they reserve libertie to fish in all convenient places for shells to make wampam; Also if the Indians Hunting of any Deer they should chase them into the water and the English should kill them, the English shall have the body and the Sachem the skin, and, in testimony of our well performance hereof, we have set to our hands the Day and Year above written.

Witness to this, Richard Wodhull—The mark of Poygatasut [x] Niunhansuck, Sachem.
Tho. Stanton—The mark of Wayandansh [x] Meantacut, Sachem.
Robert Bond—The mark of Momowota [x] Corchlake, Sachem.
Job Sayre—The mark of Nowedonah [x] Shinacoke, Sachem.
Cheekanoo [x] his mark, their interpreter.

Whereas by Direction from Theophilus Eaton, Esq'r., & mee, Edward Hopkins, a purchase was made by Thomas Stanton and others of a part of ye Easterne p't of Long Island, of ye Indian Sachems, the true proprietors thereof, in ye name of Theophilus Eaton, Esq'r., aforesaid & my selfe w't our associates, as by ye s'd agreement Dated ye 29th of April, 1648, may more fully appear w'ch s'd purchase was paid by me, Edward Hopkins, and amounted to ye sum of Thirty pounds, fower Shillings, Eight pence, as may appear by a note of p'ticulars under the hand of Thomas Stanton, to whom ye s'd sum was paid, now delivered to Robert Bond, of Easthampton: this writing witnesseth, y't I have Rec'd ye forementioned sum of Thirty pound, fower shillings, Eight pence, of ye Inhabitants of Easthampton, and have delivered unto y'm ye writing of said purchase and all ye interest that thereby was purchased. In witness whereof, I have herenuto subscribed ye 16th of April, 1651.

I say received £30. 4s. 8p's. me. EDWARD HOPKINS.

Patent of the Town of Easthampton, from RICHARD NICOLLS, 1666.

RICHARD NICOLLS, Esq're, Govern'r Generall under his Royall Highness, James, Duke of York and Albany, &c., of all his Territories in America, To all to whom these presents shall come, sendeth Greeting; Whereas there is a certaine Towne in the East Riding of Yorkshire, upon Long Island, scituat, lying and being, in the eastermost part of the said Island, commonly called and knowne by the name of East Hampton, now in the Tenure or occupation, of several freeholders and Inhabitants, who having heretofore made Lawfull Purchase, of the Lands thereunto belonging, have likewise manured and Improved a considerable part thereof, and settled a competent number of families thereupon; Now for a confirmation, unto the said freeholders and Inhabitants in there Enjoyment and Possession of the premisses, Know yce That by virtue of the commission and Authority, unto me given by his Royall Highnesse, I have Ratified, Confirmed and Granted, And by these presents do Ratify, Confirm and Grant unto Mr. John Mulford, Justice of the Peace, Mr. Thomas Backer, Thomas Chatfield, Jeremiah Concklyne, Stephen Hedges, Thomas Osburne, Senior, and John Osburne, as Patentees for and on the behalfe of themselves and their Associates, the freeholders and Inhabitants of the said Towne, their Heirs, Successors and Assignes, All that Tract of Land which already hath bene or that hereafter shall be Purchased for and on the behalfe of the said Towne whether from the natives Indyan Proprietors, or others within the Bounds and Limitts hereafter sett forth and exprest, (viz't). That is to say Their West Bounds beginning from the East Limitts of the bounds of Southton (as they are now laid out and stak't, according to agreement and consent) so to stretch East, to a certaine

Pond, commonly called THE Fort Pond, which lyes within the old Bounds of the Lands belonging to the Muntanke Indyans, and from thence to go on still East, to the utmost extent of the Island; On the North they are Bounded by the Bay, and on the South by the Sea, or Main Ocean; All which said Tract of Land within the Bounds and Limitts before mentioned. And all or any Plantation thereupon, from henceforth, are to belong and appertain, to the said Towne, and bee within the Jurisdiction thereof; Together with all Havens, Harbors, Creeks, Quarries, Woodlands, Meadows, Pastures, Marshes, Waters, Lakes, Rivers, fishing, Hawking, Hunting and fowling. And all other Profitts, Commodities, Emoluments and hereditaments, to the said Tract of Land and premises within the Limitts and Bounds afore mentioned described, belonging, or in any wise appertaining, To have and to hold, all and singular the said Lands, hereditaments and premises with their and every of their appurtenances, and of every part and parcell thereof to the said Patentees and their Associates, their Heirs, Successors, and Assignes, to the proper use, and behoefe of the said Patentees and their Associates, their Heirs, Successors and Assignes, forever : Moreover I do hereby Ratify, Confirm and Grant unto the said Patentees and their Associates, their heirs, successors and Assignes, All the Privileges belonging to a Towne within this Governm't, And that the place of their present Habitation, shall continue and retain the name of East Hampton, by wch name and stile, it shall be distinguisht and Knowne in all Bargains and Sales, Deeds, Records and Writings; They the said Patentees and their Associates, their Heirs, Successors, and Assignes, Rendering and Paying such Dutyes and Acknowledgements, as now are or hereafter shall bee constituted and Establisht, by the Laws of this Governm't under the obedience of his Royall Highnesse, his heires and Successors; Given under my hand & seale, at fort James, in New Yorke, the 13th day of March, in the 19th yeare of his Maj'ties Raigue, Anno Domini, 1666.

RICHARD NICOLLS.

Recorded by order of the Governo'r, the day and yeare above written.

MATHIAS NICOLLS, Sect.

Patent of the Town of Easthampton granted by THOS. DONGAN, 1686.

Thomas Dongan, Capt. General Governour in Chief and Vice Admirall of the Province of New Yorke and its Dependencyes, Under his Majesty, James the Second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith, &c. To all to whom this shall come Sendeth Greeting. Whereas Richard Nicolls, Esquire, Governo'r General under his then Royall Highness, James, Duke of Yorke and Albany &c., now his present Majesty of all his Territories in America, did, by a certaine writing or Patent under his hand and seale bearing Date the thirteenth day of March, in the nineteenth yeare of his Late Majestyes Reigne, and in the yeare of our Lord One thousand six hundred sixty-six, Ratifye, confirme and graunt unto Mr. John Mulford, Justice of the Peace, Mr. Thomas Backer, Thomas Chatfield, Jeremiah Conkling, Steven Hedges, Thomas Osborne, Senior, and John Osborne, as Patentees for, and in the behalfe of themselves and their associates, the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Towne of East Hampton, situate, lyeing and being, in the East riding of Yorkshire, upon Long Island, in the east-most part of the said Island, and to their heirs, successors and Assigns, all that tract of Land which already hath been or that hereafter shall be Purchased for and on the behalfe of the said Towne, whether for the Natives Indyan Proprietors or others within the bounds and Limitts, hereafter set forth and exprest, That is to say, their west bounds beginning from the East Limitts of the bounds of Southampton, as they are now laid out and stake'd according to agreement and consent so to stretch East to a certaine Pond, comonly call'd the Fort Pond, which lyes within the old bounds of the lands belonging to the Montuk Indyans, and from thence to go on still east to the outmost extent of the Island. On the north they are bounded by the Bay, and on the South by the Sea or Main Ocean, all which said tract of land within the bounds and limitts before mentioned, and all or any plantation thereupon from henceforth are to belong and appertain to the said Towne and bee within the Jurisdiction thereof, Together with all havens, harbors, Creeks, Quarries, woodlands, meadows, pastures, marshes, waters, lakes, rivers, fishing, hawking, hunting and fowling, and all other profitts, comodities, emoluments & hereditaments to the said tract of land and premises within the limitts and bounds aforementioned described by belonging or in any wise appertaining. To have and to hold all and singular said lands hereditaments and premises with them, and every of them appurtenances and of every Part and parcell thereof to the said Patentees and their associates, their heirs, successors and assignes to the proper use and behoefe of the said Patentees and their associates, their heirs, successors & assignes forever. Moreover, the said Richard Nicolls, Esq'r, Governo'r as aforesaid, did thereby ratifye, confirme and grant, unto the said Patentees and their associates, their heirs, successors and assignes, all the Priviledges belonging to a towne within this Government, and that the place of their present habitation shall continue and retain the name of East Hampton, by which name and stile it shall be recognisht and knowne in all bargaines and sales, Deeds, Records & writings. They the said Patentees and their associates, their heirs, successors and assignes, Rendering and paying such dutyes and acknowledgements as now are or hereafter shall be constituted and established by the laws of this Government under the obedience of his Royall Highness, his heirs, and successors, as by the said writing

or Patent Recorded in the Secryes Office, relacon being thereunto had, may more fully appear. And *ſeethras*, There is part of a certain Tract of land within the bounds and limits aforesaid, comonly called Mountack, which remains yett unpurchas'd from the Indyans. And *ſeethras*, Samuel Mulford and Thomas James, some of the freeholders of the said Towne of East Hampton, by the request of the rest of the freeholders of said towne, have made applicacon unto me that I would grant liberty unto the freeholders of said towne to purchase said tract of land off the Indyans, and that the fee and inherytance thereof may only belong unto the freeholders of said towne, their heirs-, successors, and assigns forever, And that I would confirme the premisses by Patent under the seal of the Province. Now Know *ſer* That I, the said Thomas Dongan, by virtue of the power and authority to me, derived from his most sacred majesty aforesaid, and in pursuance of the same for and in consideration of the Quitt rent hereinafter reserved and other good and lawfull considerations me thereunto movinge, have granted, ratifyed, released and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, ratifye, release and confirm unto Thomas James, Capt. Josiah Hobart, Capt. Thomas Tolmage, Lieut. John Wheeler, Ensigne Samuel Mulford, John Mulford, Thomas Chatfield, Senior, Jeremiah Conkline, Stephen Hand, Robert Dayton, Mr. Thomas Backer and Thomas Osborne, freeholders and Inhabitants of East Hampton hereinafter erected and made one body corporate and politique, and willed and determined to be called by the name of the Trustees of the freeholders and Comonalty of the towne of Easthampton, and their successors, all the afore recited tracts and necks of land, within the limits and bounds aforesaid together with all, and singular the houses, messuages, Tenements, buildings, milnes, mill-dams, fencings, enclosures, gardens, Orchards, fields, pastures, woods, underwoods, trees, timber, feedings, comon of pasture, meadows, marshes, swamps, plaines, Rivulets, rivers, water [courses], brooks, streames, beaches, quarries, mines, mineralis, creeks, harbours, high-ways and easements, fishing, hawking, hunting and fowling, (silver and gold mines Excepted), and all the franchises, Profits, Comodities and hereditaments whatsoever, to the said tracts and necks of lands and premisses belonging or in any wise appertaining or therewithall used, accepted, reputed or taken, to belong, or in any wise to appertaine, to all intents purposes and constructions whatsoever, as also all and singular the rents, arrearsedges of rents, issues and profits of the said tract of land and premisses heretofore due and payable. As also I do, by these presents, give and grant full power, licence and authority unto the said Trustees of the freeholders and Comonalty of the s'd towne of East Hampton and their successors, to purchase the said tract of land of the native Indyans, comonly called Mountack, and if it should so happen that the said Indyans should be unwilling to make sale of the said tract of land comonly called Mountack, within the Limits aforesaid, Then I further will and determine on behalf of his most sacred Majesty, his heirs and successors, that the s'd Trustees of the freeholders and comonalty of the towne of East Hampton aforesaid and their successors forever, shall at all times hereafter be the only persons capable in the law for the purchase of the said tract of land comonly called Mountack and none others, To have and to hold all the before recited tract of land and premisses with them, and every of them appurtenances unto the said Thomas James, Capt. Josiah Hobart, Capt. Thomas Tolmage, Lieut. John Wheeler, Ensigne Samuel Mulford, John Mulford, Thomas Chatfield, Senior, Jeremiah Conkline, Stephen Hand, Robert Dayton, Mr. Thomas Backer, Thomas Osborne, Trustees of the freeholders and comonalty of the towne of East Hampton and their successors forever and for the severall and respective uses following and to no other use intent and purpose whatsoever that is to say as for and concerning all and *singular* the severall and respective parcells of land and meadow part of the granted premisses in any wise taken up and appropriated before the day of the date hereof unto the severall and respective present freeholders or Inhabitants of the said towne of East Hampton, by virtue of the before recited deed or Patent. To the only use benefite and behoofe of the said respective present freeholders and Inhabitants, and their severall and respective heirs and assigns forever. And as for and concerning all and every such parcell or parcells, tract or tracts of land, remainder of the granted premisses not yet taken up or appropriated to any particular person or persons by virtue of the before recited Deed or Patent to the use, benefite and behoofe of such as have been purchasers thereof, and their heirs and assigns forever, in proportion to their severall and respective purchasers thereof, made as Tenants in comon, without any lett, hinderance or molestacon to be had or reserved upon pretence of joynt Tennancy, or survivorship any thing contained herein to the contrary thereof in any wayes notwithstanding. And as for and concerning that part of the afore-recited tract of land that remains as yet unpurchased of the Indyans comonly called Mountack, together with all and singular the appurtenances thereto belonging, unto the only proper use, benefite and behoofe of the said Trustees of the freeholders and comonalty of the towne of East Hampton and their successors forever. To be holden of his said Majesty, his heires and successors in free and comon soeage according to the Mannor of East Greenwich, in the County of Kent, in his Ma'tyes Realme of England, yielding, sending and paying therefore yearly, and every yeare from henceforth unto our Sovereigne Lord, the King, his heires and successors, or to such officer or officers as shall be appointed to receive the same, the summe of one lamb or the value thereof in Currant money of this Province upon the five and twentieth day of March, at New York, in full of all rents or former received rents, services, acknowledgements and demands whatsoever. And further by virtue of the power and authority to me, the said Thomas Dongan, given as aforesaid and in pursuance of the same, and for the reasons and considerations above recited. I have willed, determined, declared and granted, and by these presents do will, declare, determine and grant that the said Inhabitants and freeholders, the freemen of East Hampton aforesaid, comonly called by the name of the freeholders and Inhabitants of the towne of East Hampton, or by whatever name or names they are called or named, and their heires and successors forever henceforward, are, and shall be, one body Corporate and politique in Deed and name, by the name of the Trustees of the freeholders and Comonalty of the towne of East Hampton, and them by the name of the Trustees of the freeholders and Comonalty of the towne of East Hampton, one body Corporate and Politique in Deed and name. I have really and fully for his said Majesty, his heires and successors, Erected, made, ordained, constituted and declared by these presents, and that

by the same name they have succession forever, and that they and their successors by the name of the Trustees of the freeholders and Comonalty of the towne of East Hampton, be and shall be forever in future times, persons able and capable in law to have, perceive, receive and possess not only all and singular the premisses, but other messuages, lands, Tenements, Priviledges, Jurisdicions, franchizes and hereditaments of whatsoever kinde or species they shall be, to them and their successors in fee forever, or for the terme of a yeare or years, or otherwise whatsoever manner it be, and also goods, chattells and all other things of whatsoever name nature, quality or species they shall be, and also to give, grant, release, aliene, assigne and dispose of lands, tenements, hereditaments and all and every other thing and things, act and acts to do and execute by the name aforesaid, and that by the same name of the Trustees of the freeholders and Comonalty of the towne of East Hampton, to plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, unto defend and be defended, they are and may be capable in whatsoever place and places, and before whatsoever judges and Justices, or other persons or officials of his said Majesty, his heires and successors in all and all manner of actions, plaints, suits, complaints, causes, matters and demands, whatsoever of what kind quality and species the same be and shall be in manner and forme, as any other of his Majestyes Liegde people within this Province, can or are able to have, require, receive, possess, enjoy, retaine, give, grant, release, aliene, assigne and dispose, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, unto defend and be defended, do permitt or execute. And for the better enabling the Trustees of the freeholders and Comonalty of the towne of East Hampton aforesaid, in doing and executing all and singular, the premisses I have willed, granted and determined, and by these presents do will, grant and determine that from henceforth and forever hereafter, the said Trustees of the freeholders and Comonalty of the towne of East Hampton, do and may have and use a comon seale which shall serve to execute the causes and affaires whatsoever of them and their successors. And further I will and by these presents in behalfe of his said Majesty, his heirs and successors, that henceforward forevermore there be and shall be Trustees of the freeholders and comonalty of the towne of East Hampton aforesaid to be chosen and elected, as in these presents hereafter is menconed who shall be and shall be called the Trustees of the freeholders and Comonalty of the towne of East Hampton, and they and their successors shall and may at all convenient times hereafter upon a publique summons to be obtained at the request of any three of the Trustees aforesaid from any of his Maties Justices of the place of the said towne or for default thereof, from any of the Justices of the County of Suffolke for the time being, assemble and meet together in the towne house of the said towne, or in such other publique place as shall be from time to time appointed to make such acts and orders in writing for the more orderly doing of the premisses as they, the said Trustees of the freeholders and comonalty of the towne of East Hampton aforesaid, and their successors from time to time, shall and may think convenient. So always as the said acts and order be in no wayes repugnant to the laws of England and of this Province, which now are or hereafter may be established, and that they be not in any wise against the true intent and meaning of these presents. And also I will ordaine and determine that all and singular the aforesaid acts and orders from time to time, shall be made and ordered by the vote of the Major part of the said Trustees of the freeholders and comonalty of the towne of East Hampton aforesaid, or at least by the Major part of such of them as shall from time to time assemble and meet together in manner as aforesaid, so always there be not fewer in number than seven of the said Trustees present at such meetings so to be held as aforesaid. And for the better Execucion of this grant in this behalfe, I have assigned, nominated, created, constituted and made, and by these presents do assigne, nominate, create, constitute and make, Thomas James, Capt. Josiah Hobart, Capt. Thomas Talmage, Lieut. John Wheeler, Ensigne Samuel Mulford, John Mulford, Thomas Chatfield, Senior, Jeremiah Conkline, Stephen Hand, Robert Davton, Mr. Thomas Backer, Thomas Osborn, to stand and be the first moderne Trustees of the freeholders & Comonalty of the towne of East Hampton, to continue in the aforesaid office from and after the date of these presents, until the time that others be elected and chosen in their stead, according to the manner and forme hereinafter expressed. And moreover I do by these presents for and on behalfe of his most sacred majesty aforesaid, his heirs and successors, appoint that the Trustees of the freeholders and comonalty of the towne of East Hampton, constables and assessors within the towne of East Hampton aforesaid, Be yearly chosen on the first tuesday of April forever (Viz't), twelve Trustees of the freeholders and comonalty of the towne of East Hampton, two constables and two Assessors in such publique place as the Trustees for the time being shall appoint and direct, and that the Trustees, Constables and Assessors be chosen by the majority of voices of the freeholders and freemen of the town of East Hampton aforesaid. And Lastly, I give and grant for and on behalfe of his said Majesty, his heires and successors, by these presents to all and every person and persons, and to whatsoever person subject to his said Majesty, his heires and successors, free and lawful power, ability and authority, that they or any of them, any messuages, Tenements, lands, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwoods, rents, revercons, services and other hereditaments whatsoever within the said County of Suffolke, which they hold of his said Majesty, his heires and successors, unto the said Trustees of the freeholders and comonalty of the towne of East Hampton and their successors forever, holding and paying therefore unto his said Majesty, his heires and successors on the said twenty-fifth day of march yearly, and every year forever the full and just sume of forty shillings currant money of this Province at New York. Wherefore by virtue of the power and authority aforesaid, I do will and command for and on behalfe of his said Majesty, his heires and successors, that the aforesaid Trustees of the freeholders and comonalty of the towne of East Hampton and their successors have, hold, use and enjoy, and that they shall and may forever have, hold, use and enjoy all the libertyes, authorities, customes, orders, ordinances, franchizes, acquittances, lands, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattells aforesaid, according to the tenure and effect of these presents without the lett or hinderance of any person or persons whatsoever.

In Testimony whereof, I have caused the seale of the said Province to be herunto affixed, and these presents to be entered in the Secretaries Office. Witness my hand at Fort James, the ninth day of December, One thousand six hundred eighty-six, and in the second yeare of

the Raigne of said Sovereigne, Lord James the Second, King of England, Scotland, France & Ireland, Defender of the faith, &c.

By his Excyses command,
J. S. SWINTON.

THOMAS DONGAN.

ENDORSED.—At a Council held at Fort James, in New York, the 9th day of December, 1686.

Present, His Excellency, the Governor, Major Anthony Brockhoist, Mr. Frederick Phillips, Mr. Steph. V. Cortlandt, Mr. John Savagge, Major Jarvis Baxter.

This Patent was approved of.

J. S. SWINTON, *Ck. Council.*

Recorded in the Secryes Office for the Province of New York Lib., No. 2 Book of Patents begunn 1686.

J. S. SWINTON, *D. Sec'ry.*

May it Please yo'r Excell'cy.

The Attorney Gener'll Hath perused this Patent, And Finds Nothing Contained therein prejudiciall to his Majestys Interest.

Exam'd X'mber 9th, 1686.

JA. GRAHAM.

Patent of the Manor of Gardiner's Island, granted by Governor DONGAN, Sept. 11th, 1686.

Thomas Dongan, Lieutenant Governor and Vice-Admiral of New York and its Dependencies, under his Majesty, James the second, by the Grace of God, of England & Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith and Supreme Lord, and Proprietor of the Colony and Province of New York and its Dependencies in America, &c. To all to whom this shall come Soudeth Greeting. Whereas James Farret, of Long Island, Gentleman and Deputy to the Right Honor'ble, the Earl of Starling, Secretary for the Kingdom of Scotland, and Late Proprietor of Long Island by virtue of a Pattent under the broad Seale of England from his most Sacred Majesty of Blessed memory, Charles the first, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, did by his deed or Pattent under his hand and seal bearing date the tenth day of March, One thousand six hundred and thirty-nine, give, grant and confirm unto Lion Gardiner, his heirs, Executors and Assigns, all that Island commonly called by the Indians Manchanoek, and, by the English, Isle of Wight, together with full power and Liberty to the said Lion Gardiner, his heirs, Executors and Assigns and their successors, to Enjoy the Possession of said Island forever, and with all to build and Plant thereon, and to dispose thereof as they shall think fitt, and Likewise to Execute and put in Practice such Laws for church and Civil Government as are agreeable to God, the King, and the Practice of the Country, together with all the right, Title and Interest of him, the said Earle of Starling, to the foresaid Island and Premises, as by said Deed or Pattent under hand and seale, Relation being thereunto had, may more fully and at large appear. And whereas Richard Nicoll, Esq'r., Late Governor under his Royall highness, James Duke of Yorke and Albany, now his Present Majesty of all his Territoryes in America, Did by Pattent under his hand and seale, bearing date the fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand six hundred and sixty-five, give, grant and confirm unto David Gardner, son and heir, unto the above said Lion Gardner deceased, all the aforesaid Island comonly called by the Iudians Monchonack and the English Isle of Wight, and now Gardner's Island, together with all the Lands, woods, meadows, Pastures, marshes, waters, Lakes, fishing, hawking, hunting and fowling, and all other Profits, Comodities and hereditaments to the said Island and Premises belonging with their and every of their appurtenances thereunto belonging, and every part and parcel thereof to have and to hold the said Island with all and singular their appurtenances to the said David Gardner, his heirs and assigns forever. Paying or causing to be paid to the Present Governor under his Royall Highness, or to his Successors at New York yearly and every year, the sum of five Pounds of Lawfull mony of England, or so much of such comodities as shall be at the time of Payment Equivalent at the feast of St. Michael, the Archangel, and moreover the said Richard Nicols, Governor as aforesaid in consideration of said Rent, and for divers other good reasons, and causes him thereunto moving, Did further Grant that the said David Gardner, his heirs and Assigns, should enjoy in said Island all such Priviledges as any Towns within that Government had or enjoyed, and Likewise that the said Island should be free from depending on or the Jurisdiction of any other Towne, both in relation of Military affairs and Publick Rates, and Solely and on y to be accountable for the Premises to the Governor or his Successors appointed by his Royall Highness, now his Present Majesty, together with several other things in said Pattent more fully expressed, as by said Pattent recorded in the Secretary's Office, Relation being thereunto had, may more fully and at large appear. And whereas, Francis Lovelace, one of the Gentlemen of his Majestys Honor'ble Privy Chamber and late Governor Gen'll under his Royall Highness aforesaid, Did, for divers good causes and considerations, and Par icularly for a certain summe of mony to him in hand Paid, Remitt and forever acquitt him, the said David Gardner, his heirs and Assigns, all the above Recited Rent of five Pounds Lawfull mony of England, to bee Paid in manner aforesaid, and did only Reserve in Lieu and Stead thereof, as an Acknowledgement to his Royall Highness, one Lamb to be paid on the first day of May yearly, if t e said should be Demanded, as by said Deed of Release under his hand, and sealed with the seale of the Province, Bearing Date the twenty-third day of September, One thousand six hundred sev-

enty, Recorded in the Secretary's Office, Relation being thereunto had, may more fully and at Large appear. And whereas, David Gardiner, in the quiett & Peaceable Possession of the Premises, had made applicacon unto mee for a confirmation of the Premises. And also that I would erect the said Island & Premises into a Lordshipp & Mannor, by Patent under the Seale of the Province. Now know yee that I, the said Thomas Dongan, for the consideration aforesaid, by Virtue of the Authority Derived to mee from his most sacred Majesty and the Poure in mee Residing, I have given, granted, Ratiified, Released and Confirmed, and by these Presents doe give, grant, Ratiifie, Release and confirme unto the said David Gardiner, his Heirs and Assigns, all that Island formerly called the Isle of Wight, now Gardiner's Island, together with all the messuages, tenements, buildings, barns, out houses, fences, orchards, gardens, pastures, creeks, harbours, beaches, fishing, fowling, meadows, marshes, swamps, woods, underwoods, Trees, timber, quarries, Rivers, Runs, Rivoletts, brookes, ponds, Lakes, streams, creeks, harbours, beaches, fishing, fowling, Hunting, Hawking, mines, mineralls, (Silver and gold mines Excepted,) Jurisdictions, Royalties, Hereditaments, profits, advantages and appurtenances, whatsoever to the said Island belonging or in any wayes appertaining, or Accepted, Reputed, Taken, Known or Occupied, as Part, Parcell or member thereof. And moreover by Virtue of the Poure and Authority to mee, the said Thomas Dongan, given, and the Power in mee Residing as aforesaid, and for the Reasons and Consideracons above recited, I have and by these Presents doe Erect, make and Constitute the said Island called Gardiner's Island, together with all and Every the above granted Premises, with all and every of their appurtenances into one Lordshipp and Mannor to all Intents and Purposes, and the same shall from henceforth be called the Lordshipp and Mannor of Gardiner's Island. And I, the said Thomas Dongan, have also given and granted, and by these Presents Doe give and grant unto the said David Gardiner, and to the heirs and assigns of the said David Gardiner, full power and authority at all times forever hereafter in the said Lordshipp and Mannor, one Court Leet and one Court Barron, to hold and keep at such time and times, and soe often yearly as he or they shall see meet, and all fines, Issues, americiaments at the said Court Leet and Court Barron, to be holden within the said Lordshipp or Mannor, to be sett, forfeitted or Employed and Payable, or happening at any time to be Payable by any the Inhabitants of or within the said Lordship or Mannor of Gardiner's Island or the Limits or bounds thereof, and also all and every the Powers and authority herein before menconed for the holding and keeping the said Court Leet and Court Barron from time to time, and to award and issue out the customary writts to bee Issued and awarded out of the said Court Leet and Court Barron, to be kept by the heirs and assigns of the said David Gardiner forever, or their or any of their Stewards Deputed and Appointed with full and ample Power and authority to Distrain for Rents, Services and against summes of money payable by Virtue of the Premissess, and all other Lawful remedies and meanes for the having possessing, Recovering, Levying and Injoining, the Premissess and every Part and Parcell of the same, and all waste Estrays happening within the said Lordshipp and mannor of Gardiner's Island, and all and every sume and summs of money to be paid as a post fine upon any fine or fines to be Levied of any Lands, tenements and hereditaments within the said Lordshipp or Mannor of Gardiner's Island, together with the advowson and Right of Patronadg, and all and every the church and churches erected or established, or hereafter to be erected or established in the said Mannor of Gardiner's Island. And lastly, I, the said Thomas Dongan, by virtue of Power and Authority aforesaid, Doe give and grant unto the said David Gardiner, his heirs and assigns, that all and singular the Tennants of him, said David Gardiner, within the said Mannor, shall and may at all times hereafter meet together and choose assessors within the mannor aforesaid, according to such rules, ways and methods as are prescribed for cities, towns and countys within the Province, by the Act of General Assembly, for the Defraying the Public Charge of each Respective City, towne and county, and all such summs of money so Raised to collect and Dispose of for the use aforesaid, according as by the said act of Generall Assembly is Established and Directed, to have and to hold all and singular the said Mannor of Gardiner's Island and Premises, with their and every of their appurtenances, unto the said David Gardiner, his heirs and assigns, to the only Proper benefit and behooffe of him, the said David Gardiner, his heirs and assigns forever, to be holden of his most sacred majesty, his heirs and successors in free and comon soceage, according to the tenure of East Gree'wich, in the Kingdome of England, yielding and Paying therefore yearly and every year unto his majesty, his Heirs and Successors, or to such Officer or Officers as shall from time to time be appointed to Receive the same, one Lamb on the first day of May, at New York, in lieu of all services whatsoever.

In Testimony whereof, I have caused these Presents to be Recorded in the Secretary's Office, and the seale of the Province to be her-unto affixed this eleventh day of September, one thousand six hundred eighty-six, and in the second year of his Majesty's Reigm.

By his Exyes command,

J. S. SWINTON, *Sec'ry.*

THOS. DONGAN.

NOTES.

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P. 95. "11 Augti, 1635. In the Batcheler de Lo, Master Tho. Webb vs. New England, Lion Gardiner, 36 yers, and his wife Mary, 34 yers, and Eliza Colet, 23 yers, their maid servant, and Wm. Jope, 40 yers, who are to pass to New England, have brought, &c.

["MS. volume in folio, at the Augmentation Office, where the Rev'd Joseph Hunter, one of the Record Commissioners, presides, in Rolls Court, Westminster Hall." It contains the names of the persons permitted to embark at the port of London.]

Coll. Mass. Hist. So., Vol. VIII, 3d series.

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1635, Nov. 28. "And by the end of the month, Captain Lion Gardiner arrived at Boston, in a small vessel, in which were twelve men and two women. Their destination was also the mouth of the Connecticut. Gardiner was an expert engineer, and had served in that capacity in the Low Countries. He had been engaged to go there and construct a fortification, and "to command it," by the Lords Say and Seal, and Brook, Sir Arthur Hesslerigge, Sir Matthew Boynton, and others, under the immediate direction of Governor John Wintrop, Junior. The authorities of Boston improved the opportunity of his being here, to engage him to undertake the completion of the fortifications on Fort Hill. To improve the important services of Captain Gardiner, before his departure for Connecticut, the town "agreed y^t for y^e raising of a new worke of fortification vpon y^e ffort hill, about y^t wh^{ch} is there already begune, the whole towne would bestowe fourteen days worke a man." For this end, "Mr. Deputie, Sir Henry Vane, Mr. John Wintrop, Sen^r., Mr. Wm. Coldington, Mr. John Wintrop, iur., Capt John Vnderhill and Mr. Wm. Brenton, were chosen commissioners, Mr. John Cogan is chosen treasurer, and Mr. Wm. Dyer, clarke, for y^e furtherence of this work, which will be gone in hand with soe some as y^e weather permitt, in regard to y^t y^e ingeneere, Mr. Lyon Gardiner, who doth so freely offer his help thereunto, hath but a short time of stay."

Drake's Hist. and Antiq. of the City of Boston, page 187 to 189.

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"Lion Gardiner had seen some service in the Low Countries, under Gen. Fairfax. He came to this country about the year 1633 or 1634, and erected a fort at Saybrook, Connecticut, which was so named in honor of Lords Say and Seal, and Lord Brooke; and Mason, in his history, says 'Lieut. Gardiner complimented or entertained him with many big guns,' on his arrival at the fort after the conquest of the Pequots. You will perceive he has reference to his island. It a very beautiful island of 2,500 or 3,000 acres. It now

wholly belongs to the family, and was, until the death of the last Proprietor, an entailed estate; but I am told the entail is now broken. The Proprietors have always been called 'Lords.'

Coll. Mass. Hist. So., Vol. III, 3d series.

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Before two years had elapsed from the first settlement, the names of twenty-seven other persons were recorded as proprietors in the purchase, and as inhabitants of the town. The following is a list of these persons, most of whom are mentioned in the records with the appellation of "Goodman," a few only with that of "Mr.": Thos. James, Lion Gardner, Wm. Mulford, Richard Stretton, Jno. Miller, Luke Libby, Benj. Price, Thos. Osborn, Sen., Wm. Hedges, Ralph Dayton, Thos. Chatfield, Thos. Osborn, Jun., Wm. Edwards, Wm. Pithian, Richard Brookes, William Simons, Sam'l Belknap, Chas. Barnes, Sam'l Parsons, Joshua Garlick, Fulke Davis, Nathaniel Bishop, Wm. Barnes, Jno. Osborn, Jeremiah Neale, Stephen Hand, Thos. Baker. Of the first settlers, Ralph Dayton, who had been distinguished as a magistrate and selectman, died in 1657; John Hand, in 1663; Lion Gardiner, in 1663; Richard Stretton, in 1690; Wm. Barnes, in 1700; Thos. Baker, in 1700; Joshua Garlick, at the age of one hundred years, in 1701; Richard Shaw, in 1708, and Thos. Osborn, at the age of ninety years, in 1712. A record of the births and deaths not having been preserved previous to the ministry of the Rev. Nath. Hunting, but few of those that occurred before that date are known.

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The county of Kent is one of the most distinguished in England. It is the sole county that formed an entire kingdom in the Saxon Heptarchy. Villenage was here unknown; hence, to avoid the objection of bondage, it was sufficient for one to say "that his father was born in Kent." *A man of Kent*, was an honorable appellation. Here prevailed the custom of *gavelkind*, to the exclusion of the unequal laws of primogeniture: all lands were divided equally among the sons, and in default among the daughters. A Kentish yeoman, about the time of our chronicles, passed for a plain man of plentiful estate, and desired to answer in all respects to the name of "Goodman." From the fact of his carrying away the bell for wealth from all of his rank in England, came the rhyme

"A knight of Cales, and a gentleman of Wales, and a laird of the North Countrie,
A yeoman of Kent, with his yearly rent, will buy them out all three."

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"In the midst of the revelry of her bridal night, the daughter of Wyandanch was seized by the Narragansetts, and carried off with many others, into captivity. Gardiner, after many efforts, succeeded in redeeming this girl long before the termination of the war, and Wyandanch, impressed with a deep sense of gratitude, &c., &c., presented him with the region of country on Long Island which now bears the name of Smithtown."

Mass. Hist. So., Vol. X, 3d series.

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The island was visited by Capt. Wm. Kidd, the pirate, in 1699. "Mr. Gardiner has in his possession a piece of cloth of gold, left here by Kidd. Paul Williams, and several pirates or buccaneers, visited Gardiner's Island early in the last century, and plundered it."

N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Vol. VI.

"Geo. Fenwick, Esquire, succeeded Lion Gardiner, in command of the fort at Saybrook. This G. Fenwick was afterwards Coll. in the Parliament army, and is probably the one who was one of the judges of King Charles I."

“Vice Admiral Arbuthnot lay with eleven ships of the line in Gardiner's Bay, in the summer of 1780 and in the winter of 1781. In August, 1775, this place was plundered of 70 head of fatt cattle, 1,200 sheep, &c., by General Gage's order, and were carried to Boston by a large number of vessels under convoy, for the use of the British army. About the summer of 1778, it was robbed of considerable property by two British refugee sloops, under protection of a frigate. In 1780, much damage was done to the timber, by Admiral Arbuthnot's fleet. After the fat stock was taken to Boston in 1775, all the remainder of the stock was taken off by order of the County Committee, and sold for Continental money. Near the close of the war, the island was plundered by small armed boats from Connecticut. Nothing but a few horses were kept on the island during the war, and part of these the British army, under Sir Wm. Erskine, demanded.”

Notes and Observations on the Town of Easthampton, at the east end of Long Island. Written by John Lyon Gardiner, of the Isle of Wight, in April, 1798.
Coll. N. Y. Hist. So., page 226.

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“Sir Thomas Banks, author of *The Dormant and Extinct Baronage of England*, wrote me about our early settlers, ‘Many of them were the branches of noble and distinguished houses in England. The Pereys, in Virginia, I consider descended from the old Pereys, Earls of Northumberland, and their line traceable, if duly inquired into. I suspect, the family of Gardiner, of Gardiner's Island, to be the representatives of Mr. Gardiner, who married one of the co-heiresses of the Barony, the Most Ancient Barony of Fitzwalter, now under claim before the House of Lords, by Sir H. Brooke Bridges, Bart. Fitzwalter was the General of the Barons' Army which obtained the Magna Charta of King John.’”

Coll. Mass. Hist. So., Vol. VIII, 3d Series; and
Banks' *Dormant and Extinct Baronage*.

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In 1650, the Commissioners of the United English Colonies, at a meeting at Hartford, passed a resolution, “That the jurisdiction of Connecticut hath liberty to take Easthampton, upon Long Island, under their government, if they submit.”

Further reference, see

Trumbull's *History of Connecticut*.
Documentary Hist. of N. Y.
Winthrop's *Journal*.
Sketch of Long Island; by Silas Wood.
Thompson's *Hist. of Long Island*.
Magnalia Am. Christi.
American Genealogy. (Holgate).
Hubbard's *Narrative of Indian Wars, from 1607 to 1677*.
Hist. of Long Island. N. S. Prime,







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