

men of war (otherwise pirates), expressly contrary to the will of the Governor, then in the actual exercise of the Government; and notwithstanding his forbidding the same, took no security of the persons to whom the same were granted, nor could he tell by the contents of them, who was to execute the same, being directed in an unusuall manner to the Captain, his assignee or assignees; and otherwise full of tautologies, and nonsense. And all the vessels whereof the Commanders were so commissioned went to Madagascar and the seas of India, and were employed to commit piracy. The said Greene is likewise complained of for exercising divers other exorbitant and arbitrary acts of power, under color of his office.

19. The government is notoriously faulty in countenancing and harboring of pirates, who have openly brought in and disposed of their effects there; whereby the place has been greatly enriched. And not only plain breaches of the Acts of Trade and Navigation have been connived at, but also manifest and known piracies, and all that has been done by them on pretence of seizing and taking up of known pirates, has been so slender, weak and not pursued to effect, as plainly demonstrates it was more in show, than out of any hearty zeal or desire to suppress and bring such notorious criminalls to Justice, and their care has been so little therein, that when they had some of the greatest of those villians in their power, they have suffered them to escape.

### 1702. Governor Joseph Dudley.

Joseph Dudley (1647-1720) was said to be a "philosopher and a scholar, a divine and a lawyer, all com-

bined," but is best known to us as governor of Massachusetts. He held this office from 1702 to 1715. It was in his capacity of captain-general (by virtue of which he was empowered to exercise military authority in Connecticut and Rhode Island in case of necessity) that he made the journey to Rhode Island which is below described. The extract is taken from Bartlett's *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island*, III. 462, 463.

## GOVERNOR DUDLEY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

BOSTON, 17th September, 1702.

*My Lords :*

About twenty days ago, in obedience to her Majesties instructions, I took with me some gentlemen of the Council here, and a troop of horse to attend me, and came to Rhode Island, and there in presence of Mr. Cranston, Governor, and seven of their Council, most of them Quakers, and a great assembly of people, I published her Majesty's Letters Patents for the government of the forces and fortifications of that Collony in the time of war, and the commission for the Vice Admiralty, at which the Quakers raged indecently, saying that they were ensnared and injured.

I refused to enter into any conference with them untill I had taken the oaths of allegiance, &c., and had signed the Test, which I told them I would do in the presence of the Council I brought with me; but had rather do it before them, and then I should account myself qualified and secure in my proceedings with them, which obtained, so far as that some of them withdrawing, Mr. Cranston administered the oaths, and the next day at a conference with them, I told them I should proceed to review and settle the defects of their militia, and desired the names of their officers; but

could obtain nothing of them but stubborn refusall, saying they would lose all at once, and not by pieces.

The next day I gave out warrants to the town Major to muster the two Companies in Newport, that I might see them, intending to have given the oaths and spoken kindly to the people ; but the Governor and his Council would admit of no such thing, but have called their Generall Assembly, which is now sitting ; and, as they say, intend to send home some application to her Majesty.

The day after, I proceeded into the Narraganset country, and came to the town of Rochester, to which I had the honor to give that name sixteen years since, when I was President there, who are now grown to one hundred and twenty men, who with their officers all met me at the sea-side, and attended the publication of the commission, and cheerfully and unanimously, officers and soldiers, took the oaths. I treated them as well as the place and time would allow, and the next day proceeded in my journey. But the Governor and Council of Rhode Island came near to Rochester the next day, sent for the officers, and were greatly displeased with their attendance and submission ; and since have used all methods to bring back the people to confusion.

And upon the whole of this article, my Lords, I am humbly of opinion, that I do my duty to acquaint your Lordships, that the government of Rhode Island in the present hands, is a scandal to her Majesty's government. It is a very good settlement, with about two thousand armed men in it. And no man in the government, of any estate or education, though in the Province there be men of very good estates, ability and loyalty ; but the Quakers will by no means admit them to any trust, nor would they now accept it, in hopes of a dissolution of that misrule, and that they may be brought under her Majesty's immediate government in

all things which the major part by much of the whole people, would pray for, but dare not, for fear of the oppression and affront of the Quakers party making a noise of their Charter.

My Lords, I am your Lordships' most obedient and most faithfull humble servant,

J. DUDLEY.

### 1702. Cotton Mather.

The reputation of Cotton Mather (1662–1728) as a repository of erudition is well known. He was a Harvard graduate of the class of 1678, studied for the ministry, and at the age of seventeen preached his first sermon. In 1685 he was ordained as his father's colleague in the pastorate of the North Church in Boston, and his connection with this church only ceased with his death. His writings were extremely numerous. The best known is probably that from which this extract is taken,—*Magnalia Christi Americana: Or, the Ecclesiastical History of New-England, from Its First Planting in the Year 1620, unto the year of our Lord, 1698.* London, 1702. Book VII. pp. 20, 21.

I believe there never was held such a variety of religions together on so small a spot of ground as have been in that colony. It has been a colluvies of Antinomians, Familists, Anabaptists, Antisabbatarians, Arminians, Socinians, Quakers, Ranters, every thing in