

prevalence of the canker, than it ever has been with any disease. The number of children and young persons, who died that winter, is said to be thirteen. Since the commencement of the year 1799, the number of deaths annually has been as follows: In 1799, six; in 1800, four; in 1801, six; in 1802, five; and since the beginning of the current year, five; the whole number twenty-six. Of this number twelve were young children and infants; five youths; four middleaged persons; four past the meridian of life; and one upwards of three-score and ten years. During the four last years more persons, who have reached and exceeded the meridian of life, appear to have fallen victims to consumption, than to any other disease. Several infants have died with fits; but among children and young people, the canker, accompanied sometimes with other complaints, has been the most prevalent and fatal disorder.

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CHRONOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT OF  
DORCHESTER, BY REV. T. M. HARRIS.

**I**N giving an account of Dorchester, I propose beginning with some particulars respecting the first settlement and subsequent history of the town, extracted from authentick records, and recited principally in the words of those who relate the facts; next describe the ancient boundaries and present situation of the town, interspersed with such topographical remarks as seem worthy of notice; and then furnish some brief biographical anecdotes of the former ministers, and others, whose talents and virtues claim a grateful remembrance.

Should it be thought that the narration is tediously minute and incidents related which are quite trivial, I would observe that every particular in the early records of our country is important to the historian, and helps in delineating the features of its primitive character; whilst to the inhabitants of the town itself the more circumstantial the account the more interesting and entertaining will it prove.

*Chronology.*

*Chronology.*

In the beginning of the year 1630 a Congregational Church was gathered in the new hospital at Plymouth in Great-Britain of persons who intended to come to North America for the purpose of enjoying greater religious and civil privileges. They observed a day of solemn fasting and prayer to seek divine approbation and assistance. In the after part of the day, they chose and called those godly ministers, Rev. John Warham, a famous preacher at Exeter, and Rev. John Maverick, who lived forty miles from Exeter, to be their spiritual guides; who expressed their acceptance, and were separated to the special care of the intended emigrants. Rev. Mr. John White of Dorchester, in Dorset, who was an active instrument in promoting the settlement of New-England, and had been the means of procuring the charter, being present, preached in the fore part of the day; and in the latter part the new installed pastors performed.

They set sail on the 30th of March following, in a vessel of four hundred tons, Captain Squeb, master; and on Lord's day, May 30th, arrived at Nantasket, where the captain put them ashore, notwithstanding his engagement was to bring them up Charles river. Here they were "left in a forlorn wilderness, destitute of any habitation, and most other necessaries of life."\* Some of them, however, had the good fortune to procure a boat of an old planter, and went over to Charlestown, but met with poor accommodations there, and no encouragement to tarry; for, "though they saw several wigwams, they found but one Englishman in a house, where they ate a hoiled bass, but no bread."† They returned therefore to the boat, and, taking an Indian interpreter, went up the river to where it grows narrow and shallow,‡ and there, with much labour and difficulty, landed their goods, the bank being very steep. At first their fears were greatly alarmed by being informed that three hundred Indians were encamped near them. They sent immediately their interpreter

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\* Blake's manuscript Annals.

† Prince's Chronology, page 207.

‡ To a place since called Watertown.

terpreter to persuade the natives not to molest them, and to assure them of their own pacifick intentions. "The next morning, when the Indians appeared, they offered no violence, but sent some of their number holding out a bass, and our people sent a man to meet them with a biscuit, and so they exchanged, not only then, but afterwards, a biscuit for a bass: and the Indians were very friendly to them, which our people ascribed to *God's watchful providence over them in their weak beginnings*. All the company had not come up the river, but only ten men to seek out the way for the rest. Those who tarried behind were to take care of the cattle they had brought, and prevent them from wandering and being lost in the wilderness. Those who had gone in quest of a place to settle on, did not tarry away but a few days, during which time the rest of the company had found out a neck of land joining to a place by the Indians called *Mattapan*, that was a fit place to turn their cattle upon, with less danger of their straying; and so they sent to their friends to return."\* Accordingly they repaired to that place, and began a settlement about the beginning of June. They named the place *Dorchester*, "because several of the settlers came from a town of that name in England, and also in honour of Rev. Mr. White of Dorchester."† This name was sanctioned "by order of the Court of assistants held at Charlestown, September 7, 1630,"‡ and the town was then regularly incorporated.

Here, also, the natives were kind to them.§

This settlement was formed a month or two before Governor Winthrop, and the people that came in ships with him, arrived at Charlestown; so that Dorchester is the oldest town in the Massachusetts colony except Salem and Charlestown.||

\* Elder Blake's MS. Annals.

† *Ib.*

‡ Prince's Chronology, page 249.

§ Captain Clap's memoirs. The manuscript of these memoirs, in the hand-writing of Capt. Roger Clap, was furnished Rev. Mr. Prince of Boston, by Mr. Blake of Dorchester, and is published in a small pamphlet. It contains some of the most affecting and interesting particulars of the early settlers of our country.

|| *Shawmut*, afterwards called *Blaxton's neck*, and since *Boston*, was not settled till the spring after by Governor Winthrop and his people. Ferd. Gorges' Descript. of N. Eng. p. 29. edit. 4to. 1659.

“The first inhabitants of Dorchester came chiefly from the counties of Devon, Dorset, and Somersetshire. They were a very godly and religious people, and many of them persons of note and figure, being dignified with the title of *Mr.* which but few in those days were. Some of the principal men were Mr. Rossiter, Mr. Ludlow, Mr. Glover, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Smith, Mr. Gallope, Mr. Hull, Mr. Stoughton, Mr. Cogan, Mr. Hill, Capt. Southcote, Capt. Lovell, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Pinney, Mr. Richards, Mr. Wey, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Tilley. Among them came also Capt. Roger Clap, a very worthy, religious gentleman, then a young man. It seems that many of these people were trading men, and at first designed Dorchester for a place of commerce. Accordingly they built a fort upon Rock-hill, wherein were several pieces of ordonnance, near the water side; but the channel being poor, and the landing difficult, and Boston and Charlestown harbour being far more commodious, they desisted from that design, and many of them removed afterwards to Boston and other places; so that many families about in the country had their first rise from Dorchester.”\*

“These first settlers set down pretty thick together at the northerly end of the town, next the aforesaid neck of land, and on the easterly side near the sea.”§

“The two first years were spent in working themselves into settlements, and incorporating into a body to carry on the affairs of the plantation; in granting parcels of land and meadows, some to each family; their homesteads being their own option.”† The many great straits and difficulties with which they met, are thus pathetically described by Captain Clap:‡ “O the *hunger* that many suffered, and saw no hope in the eye of reason to be supplied, only by clams, and muscles, and fish. We did quietly build boats, and some went a fishing; but *bread* was with many a scarce thing, and *flesh* of all kind as scarce. And in those days, in our straits, though I cannot say God sent a raven to feed *us* as he did the prophet Elijah, yet this I can say to the praise of God’s glory, that he sent not only poor ravenous Indians, which came with their baskets of

CORN

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\* Blake.

§ ib.

† Blake.

‡ Page 16.

corn on their backs to trade with us, which was a good supply unto many; but also sent ships from Holland and from Ireland with provisions, and indian corn from Virginia, to supply the wants of his dear servants in this wilderness, both for food and raiment. And, when people's wants were great, not only in one town, but divers towns, such was the godly wisdom, care and prudence, (not selfishness, but self-denial) of our governour Winthrop and his assistants, that when a ship came laden with provisions, they did order that the whole cargo should be bought *for a general stock*; and so accordingly it was, and distribution was made to every town and to every person in each town as every man had need. Thus God was pleased to care for his people in times of straits, and to fill his servants with food and gladness. Then did all the servants of God bless his holy name, and love one another with pure hearts fervently."

"March, 1632, Mr. Maverick, drying a little powder, it took fire by the heat of the pan, fired a small barrel of 2 or 3 pounds, and yet did no other harm but siuge his clothes. It was in the new meeting house, which was thatched, and the thatch only blacked a little."||

Most of the houses here, in those early times, were built of logs and covered with thatch; and a reservation of a piece of marsh, where thatch was cut, was made by the proprietors for the free use of the inhabitants.\*

"At the Court in August, 1632, two of Chickatabott's men were convicted of assaulting some English of Dorchester in their houses, &c. They were sentenced to be put in the bilboes, and Chickatabott required to beat them, which he did."†

"One Henry Wey of Dorchester, who had gone in a shallop to trade with the eastern Indians the winter before, and was long missing, this summer (1632) it was found that himself and his company were all treacherously killed by the Indians. Another shallop of his, being sent out in the spring to seek after that, was cast away at Agameticus, and two of the men that were in her were drowned."

|| Gov. Winthrop's Journal, p. 33.

\* Town Records.

† Blake.

ed.”§ Upon which governour Winthrop makes this remark, “Thus oftimes he that is greedy of gain troubles his own house; and, instead of acquiring a little pelf of this world, loses his own life in the conclusion: which hath been observed as very remarkable on many who have followed that course of life.”

“1633. July 24, a ship arrived with about eighty passengers, and twelve kine, which set down at Dorchester.”||

This year the plantation began the practice of choosing men that we now call *Selectmen*. They elected four, who were to have their monthly meetings to order the affairs of the settlement, and their orders being confirmed by the plantation were of full force and binding upon all the inhabitants.—There were many orders this year concerning cattle, fences, &c. and penalties annexed; besides many grants of land. These were signed by John Maverick, John Warham, William Rockwell, and William Gayland.\*

The same year a fort was built at Rock Hill, and the charge ordered to be paid by rate.

In September Mr. John Oldham, who was afterwards killed by the Pequod Indians, and Samuel Hall, who died at Malden in Essex 1680, and two others, travelled from this town through the wilderness to Connecticut to view the country and trade with the Indians. The sachem upon the river made them most welcome, and gave them a present of beaver. They found that the Indian hemp grew spontaneously in the meadows in great abundance. They purchased a quantity of it, and upon trial it appeared much superiour to the English. They, also, brought back on their return some black-lead ore, of which the Indians said there was a whole quarry.† The flattering accounts which they gave of this part of the country induced a number to go there in the summer of 1635. They settled upon a place called by the Indians *Mattaneang* or *Ouschankamang*, and called it Windsor.‡ There they made

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§ Hubbard's MS. History.

|| Gov. Winthrop's Journal, p. 51.

\* Blake.

† I have now by me a specimen of stibium, of superiour fineness, found in the neighbourhood of Hartford.

‡ Hubbard's MS.

made preparations for the reception of their families, and for forming a permanent settlement.|| But governour Bradford wrote to them, complaining of their conduct as injurious to the people at Plymouth, who had made a fair purchase of the Indians, taken a prior possession, and erected a trading house. Many remonstrances of this kind were afterwards repeated. Application for redress was also made to the governour of Massachusetts. The Plymouth people demanded a sixteenth part of the lands, and one hundred pounds in money, as a compensation; but the emigrants would not comply with their demands. There appeared, however, to be so much justice in making them some "compensation for the purchase they had made and the good service they had done in defending that part of the country against the Indians and the Dutch, that, sometime after, the freeholders of Windsor gave them fifty pounds, forty acres of meadow, and a large tract of upland, for their satisfaction."\*

The removal of Dorchester people to Windsor is said to have been disagreeable to their ministers; but, as their whole church, and most of the congregation determined upon going, they at length consented to accompany them. However, Mr. Maverick died in the spring (Feb. 3, 1636) before the preparations were made for his removal. Mr. Wareham went in September, but did not judge it expedient to remove his family until better accommodations could be made for their reception. The

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|| Connecticut, says *Chalmers* [Polit. Annals,] was settled by emigrants from the vicinity of Boston. Actuated by the restless spirit of the times, these men had determined to remove as early as the year 1634; and they applied to the General Court of Massachusetts for permission to go in quest of new adventures in a better land. But, owing to a division in that body with regard to the propriety of the measure, they did not now obtain their desires. Yet they could not be satisfied till they had accomplished their intention, and had obtained leave of the court. For it was the general sense that the inhabitants were all bound to one another by the oath of a freeman, as well as the original compact, so as not to be at liberty to separate without the consent of the whole."

For farther particulars see *Douglass' Summary*, Vol. ii. p. 159. *Neal's N. Eng.* Vol. i. p. 164. *Hutchinson*, Vol. i. p. 44. and *Trumbull's Hist. of Connecticut*.

\* *Gov. Winthrop's Journal*, *Gov. Wolcott's MS.* and *Trumbull's Hist. of Connecticut*.

The emigration consisted of about one hundred men, women, and children, mostly from Dorchester, joined by a few from Newtown† and Watertown. They were fourteen days performing the tedious journey through the wilderness. On their arrival they began their settlement on the west side of Connecticut river not far from the mouth of Scantic river.‡

These adventurers were put to great straits after their arrival. The provisions they took with them were nearly exhausted before they arrived. The crops they raised were small, for they had cleared but very little of the ground for tillage; besides, most of their time had been necessarily devoted to the construction of huts against the winter. The winter came on early, and was very severe. They were reduced to extremity; and were obliged to subsist upon "acorns, and malt, and grains." Their cattle, also, unsheltered and poorly fed, suffered so much, that "the greatest part of them died; but some which came late, and could not be put over the river, lived very well all the winter without any hay."||

But, though these circumstances, and fear of the Indians, for some time retarded the settlement, Mr. Wareham lived to see the great increase of the little colony of christians with whom he had crossed the Atlantick, and traversed the wilderness, and died 1670.

After the departure of the first settlers, "there was an essay towards gathering a new church in Dorchester, April 1, 1636; but as the messengers of the churches convened for the purpose were not satisfied concerning some that were intended members of that foundation, the work was deferred until August 23, when a church was constituted according

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† Since called Cambridge.

‡ The names of those who came with Mr. Wareham, and were in full communion with the church, were Henry Wolcott, Esq., William Phelps, John Whitefield, Humphrey Pinney, Deacon John Moore, Deacon William Gayland, Lieut. Walter Filer, Matthew Grant, Thomas Dibble, Samuel Phelps, Nathan Gillet, Richard Vose, Abraham Randal, Bagot Eglestone, George Phelps and Thomas Ford. Of the congregation were Roger Ludlow, Esq., Thomas Stoughton, Capt. John Mason, Isaac Sheldon, Bray Rossiter, and several others.

|| Gov. Winthrop's Journal, p. 98. He adds, "they lost near £.2000 worth of cattle.



according to the order of the Gospel, by confession and profession of faith, and Rev. Mr. Richard Mather was chosen teacher.”\*

At this period the records of the church begin; and they not only contain many minute particulars respecting the discipline of its own members, and entries of admissions, deaths, baptisms, &c., but, as Mr. Mather was a very eminent man and employed at all the synods, councils, and ordinations in the province, the annals of the church of Dorchester, during the time of his ministry, more than thirty years, are a brief ecclesiastical history of this part of the country.

“At a court holden at Dorchester this year (1636) it was ordered that every town should keep a watch and be well supplied with ammunition. The constables were directed to warn the watches in their turns, and to make it their care that they should be kept according to the direction of the court. They also were required to take care that the inhabitants were well furnished with arms and ammunition, and kept in a constant state of defence. As these infant settlements were filled and surrounded with numerous savages, the people conceived themselves in danger when they lay down and when they rose up, when they went out and when they came in. Their circumstances were such, that it was judged necessary for every man to be a soldier.”†

1677. March 21. The church renewed the covenant, and held a fast on the occasion. Mr. Increase Mather preached from Nehemiah ix. 38. *Because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, sign unto it.*‡

1695.

\* Winthrop's Journal.

† Gov. Winthrop's Journal, p. 56.

‡ This sermon was printed. As it is now rarely to be met with, the following historical extracts from it are thought worth preserving here. “The churches in Plimouth colony renewed their covenant in the latter end of the fourth month (June) 1676; and ever since the heathen in those parts have fallen.” Page 18.

“Most of the members of the second church in Boston, when first constituted, were such as did once belong to the church of Christ in Dorchester.” p. 16.

In

1695. October 22. A church was gathered in this town, and Mr. Joseph Lord (who had been sometime employed as a schoolmaster) was ordained to its pastoral charge.† The church was formed with a design to remove to South-Carolina, "to encourage the settlement of churches and the promotion of religion in the southern plantations." The assisting churches were from Boston, Charlestown, Roxbury, Milton, and New-Cambridge.‡ Mr. Lord preached from Matth. v. 15. "*Ye are the salt of the earth.*" Mr. Morton gave the charge, and Mr. Hobart the right hand of fellowship.

On the fifth of December following the said church and pastor set sail. Mr. Danforth preached a sermon to them at parting, from Acts xxi. 4, 5, 6. which was afterwards printed. On the 14th of December they kept a fast on board, on account of the very boisterous weather; and on the 20th landed safely at Carolina, after a passage of only fourteen days. On the 2d of February, 1696, "was the first sacrament of the Lord's supper that was ever celebrated at Carolina. Eight persons received, besides such as were of the church there, by virtue of communion of churches; and there was great joy among the good people of Carolina, and many thanksgivings to the Lord."\* "For, (said Mr. Danforth, in the sermon before mentioned)

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In his sermon against sacrilege he has this remark. "My father had four sons brought up at the College, which, if he had not a personal estate of his own he could not have done. For he had not more than one hundred pound per annum salary from his people in Dorchester, which, (although it is a larger stipend than what most ministers in New-England have) yet, without other supplies is not sufficient to support a numerous family after an honourable manner. The like is to be said concerning the very learned Mr. Chauncy. He was constrained to leave Scituate because of his family straits. When enquired of how it fared with him, his answer was in these words, "*Ut plurimum deest panis.*" What a shame is it that so great a man should be forced so to speak? And after he was president of the College the country was not so grateful to him as it ought to have been; nor could he have subsisted if he had not received supplies from England out of estate which he left there."

† He graduated at Harvard College in 1691. His native place was Charlestown.

‡ Now *Newton*.

\* Church Records.

ed) there is not in that country either ordained minister, or any church in full gospel order; so neither imposition of the hands of the Presbytery, nor donation of the right hand of fellowship, to be expected there, nor from any place much nearer to them than ourselves."

In honour of the place from which they emigrated, they named their new settlement *Dorchester*. It is situated on the north-east bank of Ashley river, and about eighteen miles west north-west of Charleston.

The successor of Mr. Lord was Rev. Hugh Fisher, who died October 6, 1734.

Rev. John Osgood, who was born in the same society, educated in Harvard College, and graduated in 1733, succeeded, on the 24th of March, 1735, to the pastoral charge of the same church at Dorchester, S. C. and Beech Hill which was a part of the settlement; and officiated in each place alternately.

This situation being unhealthful, and the quantity of lands too small for the inhabitants, in the year 1752 they projected a settlement in Georgia. A few persons went into that province in search of lands; and, having preferred a petition to the Legislature, procured a grant of thirty one thousand nine hundred and fifty acres. This tract lies to the southward of Ogechee river, and about thirty miles south-westerly from Savannah, in the parish formerly called St. John's, now denominated Liberty county.

Finding a general disposition in the people to remove, Rev. Mr. Osgood went into this new settlement in March, 1754,\* and the whole church and society gradually settled and collected there. The town they formed is named *Midway*.

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\* "His tender regard for his congregation, (says Dr. Zubly in his funeral sermon on Mr. Osgood) and his anxiety that they might be kept together, engaged him to remove into this province, and to share with them all the inconveniences that attend the settling of a wilderness; and he lived to see their endeavours so blessed as to turn this wilderness into a garden, and the desert into fields which God hath blessed."

Mr. Osgood died August 2, 1773. After his death the church was occasionally supplied by Rev. Dr. Zubly, Rev. Daniel Roberts, Rev. Joseph Cook, and others. In 1776, Rev. Moses Allen, who was originally from Connecticut, and educated at the College in New-Jersey, succeeded to the pastoral charge.

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The original church at Dorchester, South-Carolina, lay in a ruined condition from the period of the emigration of the first settlers till 1794, when a small body were re-organized. A year or two after they settled Mr. James Adams over them, who obtained a vote of separation March, 1804. A neat Congregational church has lately been erected on the spot where the first settlers built their place of worship.\*

1705. August 29. The powder works in Dorchester were blown up; but no one received any injury.

Other historical particulars of the town will be found under the articles which succeed.

*Topography, Purchases and Grants of Land, &c.*

Dorchester is situated south of Boston, at the distance of four miles and an half, measuring from the centre of each town.

In the month of November, 1778, the society was entirely broken up and dispersed by the British army from Florida under the command of General Provost. Some fled into Chatham county, and some into South-Carolina. The army wantonly laid waste all before them, burned the meeting-house at *Midway*, almost every dwelling house in the settlement, and the crops of rice then in stacks. In December following, Savannah was reduced by the British troops, commanded by Col. Campbell. At this time Mr. Allen was taken prisoner. The continental officers were sent to Sunbury on parole, except Mr. Allen, who was chaplain of the Georgia brigade; he was denied that privilege. "His warm exhortations from the pulpit (says Dr. Ramsay), and his animated exertions in the field, exposed him to the particular resentment of the British. They sent him with the private soldiers on board the prison ships. Wearied with a confinement of several months in that loathsome place, and seeing no prospect of relief, he determined to attempt the recovery of his liberty, by throwing himself into the river and swimming to an adjacent point; but he was drowned in the attempt."

On the prospect of peace the inhabitants returned to Midway. In November, 1785, they settled Rev. Abiel Holmes; but on account of his health he was obliged to leave them, June 21, 1791, and is now minister at Cambridge. He was succeeded at Midway by Rev. Cyrus Guildersleeve, who was ordained December 14, 1791. In 1797 there were one hundred and fifty communicants.

*[For the particulars of this note I am indebted to information derived through my much respected friend, Rev. Mr. Holmes.]*

\* At my request, my beloved christian brother, Rev. Mr. Mc. Kean visited Dorchester in his travels through South-Carolina, and communicated to me information respecting the first settlement of that place which I have recited above.

town. It is bounded on the west by Roxbury and Dedham, on the south by Milton and Quincy, and on the east and north by Boston harbour. It was originally very extensive, comprehending the whole of the territory now contained in Milton, Stoughton, Sharon, Canton, and Foxborough. It was then about thirty-five miles in length, and in some places from six to eight in width. At present it contains about 8,400 acres; and considered separately from its peninsulas, islands, and that part of it known by the appellation of "the farms," its greatest length from north-east to south-west is about six miles, and its breadth from north-west to south-east three miles and an half.

The following particulars of the ancient property and limits of the town, are deemed worth recording.

It has already been mentioned that the first settlers were kindly received by the aborigines. Liberty to remain here was granted them, but at the same time they were careful to purchase the territory of the Indians and "for a valuable consideration" they bought a tract of land from what is now called Roxbury brook on the west to Neponset river on the south, and on the other sides bounded by the sea.

In 1636 the General Court made a grant, in addition to this, as far as the Great Blue Hill, and the town took a deed of Kitchmakin, sachem of Massachusetts, for the same.\*

After this, the boundaries of the town were run, and are entered in the Town Records, as follows: "To run from the outside of Mr. Rösiter's farm next the sea, to the foot of the Great Blue Hill, from a marked tree, to a second marked tree in a strait line to the top of the Blue Hill next Neponset, S. W. and by W. half a point westerly; and all the marsh ground from the south side of Mr. Newbury's house along Neponsit river to Mr. Stoughton's mill, to lie in Dorchester,—and all the rest of the upland and marsh from Mr. Rositer's farm to the sea, and so to the mouth of the river beyond Minodiquid river running into the country southward, and to the west to lie to  
Boston,

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\* Blake.—This part has since been set off and incorporated by the name of Milton.

Boston, only excepting such land as they have a right to by grant of the Court formerly."

In 1637, the General Court made a second grant to the town extending to the Plymouth line, called "the New Grant;" but the town was not able to make a contract immediately with the Indians. It was not till 1666 that the purchase was completed of Josias Chickatabot; and three years from that, before he engaged to sign a full and complete deed. Before *that* was properly authenticated, he was slain in the wars by the Mohawks; but Squamaug his brother, ruling as sachem during the minority of Jeremy Chickatabot, son of Josias, gave an ample deed which was also signed and confirmed by Jeremy himself in 1671, when the town assessed a rate of £.28 to pay for the purchase.

These are pleasing evidences of the precaution used by the early settlers to make regular purchases of the natives.

When the line between Dorchester and the old colony was run in 1713, a part of the last grant and purchase was cut off; Mr. Thaxter and Mr. Thompson mistaking *Station tree* for *Angle tree*, which are three miles and an half apart.\*

Thompson's island was appropriated for the benefit of a school in 1639; but afterwards the town was sued out of its possession, and the General Court granted one thousand acres of wild land in lieu of it.†

The Indians on Neponsit river having sold away all their lands, and finding themselves in the way of the new settlers, applied to Rev. Mr. Eliot at Roxbury for advice. He had been among them to preach to them, and gained their confidence and veneration. He readily exerted his influence in their behalf, proposed to them to move to Punkipog,‡ about fifteen miles farther back into the woods. To accomplish this, he sent a letter to major Atherton of Dorchester, full of grateful acknowledgments, in behalf of the Indians, "thanking him and all the good people

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\* See letter of Mr. Noah Clap, town-clerk of Dorchester, inserted in the Historical Collections, V. i. p. 100.

† Blake.

‡ Sometimes spelled Ponkipog, Punkipoag, and Pakemit. The name signifies "a spring issuing out of red earth."

people of Dorchester that they were allowed peaceably to reside in their village ;” and then makes a request, “1st, that you would please to make an order in your town, and record it in your town records, that you allow the Indians at Punkipog, there to sit down, and to make a town, and to allow such accommodations as may be sufficient to maintain God’s ordinances among them another day. 2dly. That you would appoint fit men, who may in a fit season, bound and lay out the same, and record that also.” This letter bears date, “Roxbury, 4th of the 4th month, 1657.”

Accordingly, at a general town meeting on the 7th of December following, it was voted that the Hon. Major Atherton, Lieutenant Clap, Ensign Foster, and William Sumner, be desired and impowered to lay out the Indian plantation at Punkipog, not exceeding six thousand acres. It appears that this was done, for, in a deed from Charles Josiah an Indian sachem, bearing date June, 1684, he ratified and confirmed, for a valuable sum of money paid him by William Stoughton, Esq. what his father Jeremy and his grandfather Chickatabot had done before him ; granting and conveying all the land in the town of Dorchester and Milton, said six thousand acres laid out for the Indians excepted.\*

At the same meeting (1657) five hundred acres were granted to Lieut. Roger Clap ; and one thousand to be laid out for the support of the school in Dorchester.

In 1659 four hundred acres of land were granted to the use of the ministry, and five hundred to the non-commoners.

1662. *Unquety*† (now Milton) was set off a township.

1698. This year was finished the laying out of the *twelve divisions* of land, so called, in the new-grant, beyond the Blue Hills. They were laid out and surveyed by order of the proprietors ; John Butcher, surveyor.

In 1707 Punkipog plantation, with some other of the  
inhabitants

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\* For some account of this Indian settlement see Gookin’s Historical Collections of the Indians in New-England, published in the first vol. of Historical Society, page 184.

† Sometimes called *Uncataquissett*.

inhabitants of the new-grant, were set off a precinct by themselves, as far as Mashepog pond and Moose hill; and the meeting-house ordered to be set, where it now stands, upon Packeen river. When they obtained the act of incorporation from the General Court in 1726, the town was called *Stoughton* as a tribute of respect to lieutenant-governour William Stoughton.

The "twenty proprietors" were incorporated into a distinct body, with powers to lay out and sell lands, &c. and held their first meeting June 17, 1713. Their last bears date . . . Their records and plans are in the possession of Deacon Topliff.

1714. The line between Dorchester and Wrentham was extended from Station tree, the south-west bounds before made, to near the Patent or Colony line.\*

#### *Face of the Town, &c.*

The surface of the ground, being agreeably diversified into hill and dale, gives a great variety of soil and prospect. Several of the hills afford extensive views of the harbour and islands on the east, and of the neighbouring towns and country in other directions; and offer, on their fertile sides or airy summits, very eligible sites for building, unequalled, perhaps, in the Commonwealth.

In the north-easterly extremity of the town, called "Dorchester neck," are those celebrated heights on which forts were erected during the late war with Great-Britain. These are so near to Boston and to Castle William, (now called Fort Independence) as completely to command both that town and harbour.

Most of the cliffs of rock in the town are formed of what are called *pudding stones*. These consist of concretions of small rounded pebbles, often highly polished, mixed with interstices. either of consolidated sand or petrified clay. The *former* kind, when exposed to the air frequently crumbles, and the sand and pebbles separate. This is observable of cliffs farthest from the sea shore, at the distance of four or five miles; and I have observed none more remote. The *latter* kind is very compact, and never separated but with force, for the purpose of building walls,

\* Blake.



walls, &c. In both the pebbles entirely resemble those found on the beach, where they are rounded by continual friction during the rushing in and receding of the tide.

#### *River and Brook.*

*Neponsit* river is the boundary line between the town and Milton. It hath its rise from Cedar swamp in Foxborough; though a considerable current flows from it from Mashapog pond in Stoughton.

The bridge over this river uniting the town with Milton was built in the year 1651. A few years since a handsome arch was stretched over it, bearing this inscription, "WE UNITE IN DEFENCE OF OUR COUNTRY AND LAWS."

Another bridge has been built over the river from Squantum by the Quincy turnpike association, and was completed in the year 1803.

*Mother brook*, is a stream flowing spontaneously from Charles' river in Dedham, though its channel has been enlarged by cutting. It crosses the south-west corner of the town, and falls into Neponsit. The circumstance of a brook flowing out of one river into another is very singular.

#### *Bay.*

Dorchester has but one bay, which is divided by a promontory, called *Fox point*, into two separate harbours. That which is formed on the south side is the most considerable, and has several wharves, but is not supplied with sufficient depth of water for vessels of a large size. The other is known by the name of "Old Harbour"; so called from being the place where the first settlers of the town came on shore.

The bay is met on the S. W. by Neponsit river, which is navigable by vessels of considerable burden almost to Milton mills. The land here forms a promontory called "Preston's point," and sometimes "Tinian;" on which a fort was erected at the commencement of the late war. The situation of the point is very pleasant.

Near this place is a small creek which bears the name of "Barque Warwick," from a small vessel which ran a-ground

ground here within two or three years after the first settlement of the town; the remains of which are still to be seen.

#### *Peninsulas.*

One of these is known by the name of "Dorchester point." It lies in an irregular form, and contains about 600 acres. Its north-east extremity approaches within half a mile of Fort Independence, and its north-west is about the same distance from the south part of Boston, with which to connect it by a bridge or dam would be easy; and a plan is in agitation for that purpose.

Two hills on this peninsula, at a small distance from each other, are the celebrated *heights* of which mention has been made.

*Squantum* is a smaller peninsula, running into the sea in a north-east direction from "the farms," (to which it is united by an isthmus about three quarters of a mile long) until it comes nigh to Thompson's island. The land here is generally good, especially for mowing and pasturage. It rises by a gradual ascent on all sides to a considerable height; and its summit commands a noble prospect of the harbour and circumjacent country. At the north-east extremity is an abrupt pile of rocks, known by the name of "the Chapel."

*The Farms* are a tract of land on the south-east of the bay, and contiguous to Milton and Quincy. The soil is in some parts tolerably good, but in general it is light and sandy. It produces considerable crops of indian-corn, barley, and oats; but its mowing and pasturage are indifferent.

#### *Islands.*

There are belonging to the town two islands, "Thompson's" and "the Moon." The former contains about 100 acres, and is inhabited; the latter about 30 acres.

#### *Mills.*

The first mill built in Dorchester, and "the first in the Colony" was erected by Mr. Stoughton, by leave of the plantation, on Neponsit river, in the year 1633.\*

There

\* Blake.

There are now belonging to the town ten mills; viz. three paper mills, two chocolate mills, three grist mills, and two fulling mills, situated on Neponset river, and a grist tide-mill on a creek which runs up from the mouth of the river on the easterly part of the town.†

#### *Manufactures.*

The principal manufactures of the town are bricks,‡ paper, chocolate, leather, and boots and shoes of various kinds; riding carriages, cabinet work, elegant and plain looking glass frames, playing cards, woolen cloths and stuffs.

#### *Salt Works.*

In the year 1802 salt-works were erected on Preston's point by Captain Deane. They consist of a series of vats, two hundred feet in length and twenty feet in width, making about four thousand superficial feet of exposure to the power of evaporation. These works produced the last year one hundred and thirty bushels of salt of an excellent quality and remarkably pure; and during the winter a considerable quantity of Glauber's salts were chrysalized.

Majors James and Edward Robinson are now erecting a set of works upon a new construction, of which they give the following description:

“The water is brought into troughs, elevated to whatever height the owner may choose; and from them, brought down upon the face of the *reflectors*, which stand over *inclined planes* or *platforms*. The water is carried down by *cleets*, which are also *reflectors*, which convey it forwards, and backwards, over the face of the large *reflectors*, until it be brought down to the head of the *platforms*, over which it is conveyed again by cleets, until it runs backwards and forwards (the little rivulets being about one inch and an half separated) until it traverse the whole surface, from which it is conducted into *vats*, and carried back again by *pumps* into the *troughs*, if not sufficiently pickled; and then carried again over the face of the *reflectors*

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† On Neponset river on Milton side, are also three paper mills, one grist mill, one saw mill, and one chocolate mill.

‡ 4,000,000 bricks were made in the year 1803.

*flectors* and *platforms*, as before. The *reflectors* are also the *roofs*, which are much less costly than those in the other mode; and in the *evaporation* answer a most important purpose. When the water is pickled, it also stands under *reflectors* and *lenses*, if any choose to improve the latter, which, doubtless, will very soon chrystallize the brine. An hundred feet in *this way*, it is believed, will much exceed a thousand in the *former*. What is an agreeable consideration is, much of the works in the old way may be added to these, to the very great profit of the owners, because the chief of their works are *vats* and *roofs*, the latter of which only are lost. However, the advantage arising from the cheapness of the *roofs* in the new invention, and these being turned into *reflectors*, will a great deal more than repay the damage. *One hundred feet*, prepared for pickling the water, will very soon prepare great quantities to be put into the *salt rooms* or *vats*, in which the salt is made; and hence at comparatively a very small expence of time, much *greater quantities* of salt can be produced, than ever have been before."

#### Meeting House.

The first place for publick worship was erected on the plain, not far from "Old harbour," where they landed.\* It was surrounded by pallisadoes, was the place for the deposit of military stores, and for resort in case of alarm from the Indians. A sentinel was kept at the gate every night; and thither the people carried their plate and most valuable articles every evening, to be preserved in safety.

In 1676 a new meeting house was erected on the hill where the present one stands. The work was undertaken by Mr. Isaac Royal, and performed for two hundred pounds. The elm trees about it were set out by Mr. Thomas Tilestone.† After the building was completed the old one was sold, by a vote of the town, to Mr. Royal, for £.10. The first assembling in the new meeting house was on Nov. 17, 1678.

This place of worship having fallen into decay, and being too small to accommodate the inhabitants, a new one was

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\* Near to where Col. Swan's pavilion now stands.

† These noble trees were cut down at the commencement of the late war.

was raised in 1743, sixty-eight feet by forty-six, with a tower fourteen feet square, and a steeple one hundred and four feet high to the vane. The whole cost three thousand five hundred and sixty-seven pounds, ten shillings, and eleven pence, old tenor. The first meeting in it was on the 2d of December, 1744; when Mr. Bowman preached a sermon suitable to the occasion from Psalm lxxxiv. 1. On leaving the old house the Lord's day preceding he discoursed from Rev. iii. 3.

In 1752 the new bell was hung. It was given by the proprietors of the common and undivided lands, late in the township of Dorchester and now in Stoughton. It was imported from Bristol in England; weighs seven hundred and eighty-five pounds, and cost the company fifty pounds sterling.

Sept. 23, 1753. Began to read the scriptures as a part of the publick service on the Lord's day.

In 1795 the meeting house was enlarged, by first dividing it along the ridge pole, and one half moved off fourteen feet, and then building an addition in the middle. After which the tower and steeple were moved, standing, seven feet, to bring it to the centre of the end. This ingenious operation was performed by deacon Edward Pierce of Dorchester, by means of screws, and with the strength of only four men.

#### *Schools.*

There are five annual schools in the town. The school-house in the middle of the town is brick; the others are commodious wooden buildings.

*A social Library* was formed in 1793. At present it consists of about five hundred volumes, of the best modern authors; with means for an annual increase.

#### *Population.*

By the last census Dorchester contained 2,347 inhabitants.

#### *Bills of Births and Deaths.*

“The records of births and deaths before the year 1657 were accidentally burnt in Thomas Millet's house, and so are all lost, excepting that a few families had kept an account of their children's births, and entered them in the next book of records.”\*

The

\* Blake's MS. Annals.

The following Tables are compiled from the registry of the town-clerk, compared with records kept in the families of Blake, Pierce, and others.

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Year.	Births.	Deaths.
1657	19	17	1678	33	20	1699	27	11 <sup>d</sup>	1720	27	8
1658	31	9	1679	29	18	1700	34	15	1721	53	12 <sup>s</sup>
1659	18	7	1680	35	8	1701	35	19	1722	43	14
1660	29	6	1681	27	17	1702	31	14	1723	45	22
1661	19	7	1682	38	12	1703	35	8 <sup>e</sup>	1724	43	15
1662	23	5	1683	28	19	1704	40	12	1725	53	13
1663	5 <sup>i</sup>	5 <sup>a</sup>	1684	24	8	1705	41	6 <sup>f</sup>	1726	44	9
1664	18	8	1685	22	4	1706	38	10	1727	28	6
1665	29	5	1686	25	7	1707	31	12	1728	39	10
1666	13	6	1687	33	10	1708	33	14	1729	26	9
1667	26	5	1688	32	20	1709	48	11	1730	38	11
1668	20	5	1689	31	13	1710	39	10	1731	44	16
1669	22	6	1690	15	38 <sup>c</sup>	1711	35	14	1732	36	19 <sup>h</sup>
1670	23	4	1691	26	20	1712	38	16	1733	37	13
1671	17	5	1692	21	16	1713	27	13	1734	22	15
1672	14	3 <sup>b</sup>	1693	35	17	1714	36	22	1735	33	18
1673	25	6	1694	25	12	1715	35	13	1736	41	20
1674	20	4	1695	31	9	1716	47	10	1737	32	18
1675	37	13	1696	29	7	1717	28	15	1738	48	13
1676	35	28	1697	26	6	1718	37	23	1739	33	21
1677	36	12	1698	33	7	1719	34	11			

<sup>a</sup> Only that number recorded.

<sup>b</sup> William Dier, aged 93.

<sup>c</sup> "There is a memorandum (says Mr. Blake) in my father's book, in the account he kept, that from the first of April, 1690, unto the first of July, 1691, that is, one year and four months, there died in Dorchester fifty-seven persons, thirty-three of them of the *small pox*, the rest of a fever, and most of them of a middle age. About the same time, [1690] lost at sea forty-six soldiers that went to Canada, in all one hundred and three."

<sup>d</sup> One person aged 85, and one 93.

<sup>e</sup> One aged 83, and one 93.

<sup>f</sup> Feb. 6, 1705, died the widow Wyat, aged 94; "having as a mid-wife assisted at the birth of one thousand one hundred and odd children." *Blake*.

<sup>g</sup> "This year the small-pox went through Boston, and it was in twenty-nine families of this town, whereof thirteen persons died, two of them being strangers." *Blake*.

<sup>h</sup> Several aged people died of a prevailing epidemick cold.

Year.	Bap- tisms.	Deaths.	Year.	Bap- tisms.	Deaths.	Year.	Bap- tisms.	Deaths.	Year.	Bap- tisms.	Deaths.
1740	41	20 <sup>a</sup>	1757	48	19	1774	40	26 <sup>r</sup>	1791	42	32
1741	44	12	1758	37	18	1775	49	71 <sup>b</sup>	1792	37	36 <sup>p</sup>
1742	35	10 <sup>p</sup>	1759	33	28	1776	32	56 <sup>q</sup>	1793	35	39 <sup>q</sup>
1743	40	27	1760	33	28	1777	40	32 <sup>l</sup>	1794	47	19 <sup>r</sup>
1744	33	22	1761	41	53 <sup>s</sup>	1778	30	42 <sup>k</sup>	1795	39	17 <sup>s</sup>
1745	35	26	1762	37	26	1779	46	19	1796	61	22
1746	32	27	1763	42	25	1780	31	18	1797	47	21 <sup>t</sup>
1747	30	36	1764	54	23	1781	45	13	1798	57 <sup>u</sup>	34 <sup>v</sup>
1748	33	28	1765	44	24	1782	42	17	1799	50	38
1749	36	29	1766	37	38	1783	41	27	1800	43 <sup>w</sup>	41 <sup>x</sup>
1750	36	37	1767	44	29	1784	41	25 <sup>l</sup>	1801	47	44
1751	24	36 <sup>e</sup>	1768	44	26 <sup>f</sup>	1785	44	18	1802	40 <sup>g</sup>	61 <sup>h</sup>
1752	33	51 <sup>d</sup>	1769	45	29	1786	41	25 <sup>m</sup>	1803	44	50 <sup>aa</sup>
1753	36	26	1770	52	33	1787	26	29			
1754	34	18	1771	29	18	1788	37	11 <sup>n</sup>			
1755	33	20	1772	46	23	1789	41	16 <sup>o</sup>			
1756	38	19	1773	23	24	1790	34	35			

\* I here use the records of *baptisms*, as that of *births* in the town-clerk's office appears imperfect, probably from the negligence of parents in sending in the names of their children.

<sup>a</sup> Mr. John Trescot, aged 90, and his wife aged 90.

<sup>b</sup> One person aged 93.

<sup>c</sup> Twelve of this number died between Nov. 22 and Dec. 24.

<sup>d</sup> Several died of an epidemick, pleurisy, and nervous fever; twenty-four in January.

<sup>e</sup> Ten died in the month of October, and six in the beginning of November.

<sup>f</sup> Five very sudden deaths.

<sup>g</sup> Several aged persons died, viz. one of 95, two of 86, one of 85, one of 84, one of 73, one of 62, and one of 58 years of age.

<sup>h</sup> More aged persons died, viz. one [Mr. Israel Leadbetter] of 97, one of 88, one of 86, two of 72, one of 67, and one of 64 years of age. This year also forty soldiers were buried.

<sup>i</sup> Four died of the small-pox.

<sup>j</sup> Twelve died of the small-pox.

<sup>k</sup> Nine died of the small-pox.

<sup>l</sup> Several aged persons died, viz. one of 87, one of 86, one of 84, one of 82, one of 76, one of 73, and one of 72 years of age.

<sup>m</sup> Died one person aged 86, and one 71.

<sup>n</sup> One aged 79.

<sup>o</sup> One person aged 90, one 84, and one 75.

<sup>p</sup> Died ten of the small-pox.

<sup>q</sup> One person aged 77, one 76, and one 70.

<sup>r</sup> One person aged 86, one 83, four 78, and one 77.

<sup>s</sup> One person aged 97, one 88, and two 78.

<sup>t</sup> One person aged 95.

<sup>u</sup> And five adults baptized.

<sup>v</sup> Aged persons, 85, 83, 81, 78, 75, 71; and fifteen children under three years of age.

<sup>w</sup> And three adults baptized.

<sup>x</sup> Mrs. Thornton aged 100, and Mrs. Tolman aged 88.

<sup>y</sup> Three adults baptized.

<sup>z</sup> Aged persons, 87, 77, two of 72, one of 71, and one of 70. Eight persons died of a malignant fever, six of them children of Mr. Belcher, between the ages of 14 and 30.

<sup>aa</sup> Aged persons, 86, 85, two of 80, one of 78, 76, 75, 74, 70.

*Ministers.*

The first ministers in the town were Rev. John Wareham, and Rev. John Maverick, who came together from England, as has been already mentioned, in the year 1630. "Good old Mr. Maverick" as Morton stiles him,|| died at Boston, after the removal of a large part of his church and congregation to Connecticut, on the third of February 1636, aged 60.

Dr. Mather fills up two columns in the Magnalia with an account of Mr. Wareham, from which we can learn only that he was a pious man, that he preached with notes, and that, from religious scruples, while he administered the Lord's supper to others he for several years declined partaking himself.\* From another source we learn that he died at Windsor, April 1, 1670.†

When a new church was gathered at Dorchester, Rev. Richard Mather was installed the pastor.

He was born at Lowton in the parish of Winwick and county of Lancaster, in Great-Britain, in the year 1596. His parents Thomas and Margaret Mather were of ancient families in that village. Though reduced to low circumstances, they gave their son a good education. So great was his early proficiency at school, that he was elected in 1611, being only 15 years old, to take the instruction of a school at Toxteth, near Liverpool. In this office he acquitted himself well, "so that he was both loved and feared by his scholars, beyond what is usual even where there are aged masters." After having fitted several scholars for the university, he removed there himself, and entered a student in Brazen Nose college at Oxford. He was soon, however, recalled to Toxteth by a request of the congregation there to become their minister. He accordingly returned, and preached his first sermon on the 10th of Nov. 1618. Soon after he received episcopal ordination by Dr. Morton, then bishop of Chester.

September

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|| New-England's Memorial, p. 115.

\* p. 120.

† A daughter of his, Eunice, married Rev. Eleazer Mather first pastor of the church at North-Hampton. Her only daughter, Eunice, was the wife of Rev. John Williams of Deerfield, and was barbarously murdered by the Indians when her husband and the family were taken captive, March, 1703-4.



September 29, 1624, he married Katherine, daughter of Edmund Hault, Esq. of Bury in Lancashire; with whom he lived in connubial affection thirty years. By her he had six sons; of whom Samuel, Timothy, Nathaniel, and Joseph, were born in Great-Britain; and Eleazer and Increase, in New-England.

After having preached fifteen years he was suspended and silenced, August, 1633, for non-conformity to the establishment; but on November following restored again, through the intercession of friends. But, under the more rigorous visitations of the archbishop of York, he again received sentence of suspension in 1634. His never having worn the surplice, and his puritanick principles, were alleged against him. Being thus "inhibited from the exercise of his ministerial functions," placed again in private life, and apprehensive of the severity of those persecutions an enraged hierarchy were meditating, he resolved upon a removal to New-England. Accordingly he drew up his reasons for such a determination, and exhibited them to the ministers and others in Lancashire at several meetings appointed for their consideration. As nothing was objected against them that he deemed satisfactory, in the month of April, 1635, he left his people at Toxteth, and journeyed to Bristol in order to take ship there. He was obliged to change his outer habit, that he might travel *incognito*, because pursuivants were seeking to apprehend; but by this method he eluded their search. From Bristol he sailed for New-England, May 23, 1635. Two of his sons, who were ministers, came with him, also Jonathan Mitchil, then only a child of eleven years of age; afterwards the famous pastor of the church at Cambridge. The ship encountered a most violent and dangerous hurricane on the American coast, but providentially arrived safe in Boston harbour, August 17, 1635.

Mr. Mather tarried some months with his wife and family in Boston. Immediately several invitations were made to him from Plymouth, Roxbury, and other towns to settle with them; but, by the advice of Messrs. Cotton, Hooker, and other friends, he accepted the request from Dorchester, and began the gathering and forming a church there (the first church having moved with Rev. Mr.

Mr. Wareham to Connecticut) in August, 1636; and on the 23d of that month was constituted their teacher.

Notwithstanding many pressing invitations to return to his people in England, he continued in Dorchester till his death.

For his second wife he married the widow of the famous John Cotton.

Though in his old age he experienced many infirmities, as great deafness, the loss of sight in one eye for seven years, and painful attacks from the stone; yet such was his general good health, that it is observed of him that "in fifty years together he was not detained by sickness so much as one Lord's day from publick labours."

As he was attending the synod at Boston, of which he was chosen moderator, he was taken with a violent fit of the stone, which in five days put a period to his life, April 22, 1669, in the seventy-third year of his age.

The last texts from which he preached were Job xiv. 14. and 2 Tim. iv. 6—8. He had also prepared a discourse upon 2 Cor. v. 1. to be delivered at a private conference in Dorchester, "but was prevented speaking by bodily pains."

"He was a man of an exemplary life and conversation; a good scholar; and a plain, solid, practical preacher. He wrote several treatises, which were well accepted in those times, and was generally consulted in all difficulties relating to church government."\* He drew up the "discourses about the church covenant" and the "answer to the thirty-two questions," in the year 1639, which pass under the names of the ministers of New-England; and when the "platform of church discipline" was agreed to by a synod of these churches in the year 1647, Mr. Mather's model was that out of which it was chiefly taken.† Other particulars of his publications may be found in the *Magnalia*.

He left four sons in the ministry, one of whom, *Eleazer*, pastor of the church at Northampton, died about three months after his father. *Samuel* was teacher of a church  
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\* Neal, Hist. of N. Eng. vol. I. p. 385.

† *Magnalia*, p. 128.

in Dublin in Ireland; *Nathaniel*, minister of Barnstable in Devon, Great-Britain, and afterwards of Rotterdam in Holland; and *Increase*, minister of Boston in New England.‡

In the latter part of the year 1639, Rev. Jonathan Burr was settled as colleague with Mr. Mather.\*

He was born at Redgrave in Suffolk, Great-Britain, of godly parents, who perceiving his early love of letters, gratified him with a learned education: and, says Dr. Mather,† “though literature did much adorn his childhood, religion did so much more; for he had from a child known the holy scriptures, which made him wise unto salvation.” In his earliest years, “so studious was he as to leave his food for his book, and withal so pious as to leave his book for his prayers.”

After having spent four years at the university, upon the death of his father he returned to the country, and was employed in keeping a school. Here, however, he pursued his studies with such diligence, that when those of his standing were to take their degrees of mastership, he was appointed one of the moderators; an honourable distinction in which he acquitted himself to great acceptance.

For a while he preached at Horniger, near Bury in Suffolk, and afterwards took the charge of the church at Reckingshal. “He was a minister of very good repute there for piety and learning.” ||

Having been silenced for non-conformity, in the beginning of 1639, he came over to New-England, with his wife and three children. Soon after their arrival she was delivered of a fourth. The following year he with his family had the small-pox, which, as inoculation was not then practised, was a very malignant and dangerous disorder; but they all happily recovered, though it left Mr. Burr in a state of debility which shortened his days.

Though in the discharge of his ministerial office at Dorchester

‡ For particulars of these, see the following notices of graduates at Harvard College.

\* The church records do not specify the time, but I find that on the 21st day of the 10th month [December] “Mr. Jonathan Burr and Mrs. Frances his wife were admitted as members of the church.”

† *Magnalia*, p. 78.

|| *Winthrop's Journal*, p. 216.

chester he is recorded to have given "good proof of his gifts and godliness to universal satisfaction, yet some little misunderstandings with regard to certain points supposed to favour the opinions of the Familists arose between him and Mr. Mather. The dissatisfaction of the latter was so great that a council was called to take the matter into consideration. It consisted of the governour and another of the magistrates, and ten of the elders of the neighbouring churches. Four days were spent in the discussion. The result was a recommendation to the two pastors "to set apart a day for mutual reconciliation;" which was accordingly done, with mutual concessions, "and harmony and a good understanding was restored." \*

Doctor Mather comments largely upon Mr. Burr's eminent piety, bountiful charity to the poor, tender sympathy with the afflicted, amiable disposition, and unaffected meekness of spirit.

Though distinguished by a most exemplary life and conversation, and by the most conscientious discharge of ministerial duties; yet such was his humility that he would sometimes complain to his friends, "Alas! I preach not what I am, but what I ought to be." "Hence, on the Lord's day, after he came home from his publick work, it was his manner presently to retire and spend some time in praying to God for the pardon of the sins which accompanied him in his work, and in praising God for enabling him to go in any measure through it; with petitions for the good success of his labours. He would then come down to his family worship, wherein he spent some hours instructing the family and performing other duties: and, when his wife desired him to abate of his excessive pains, his answer would be, "It is better to be worn out with the work than to be eaten out with rust." It was, indeed, his joy to be spending his life unto the uttermost for God and for his people; yea, he would say, though he should have no temporal rewards." †

Such holy fervour and pathos seasoned his pulpit performances that the famous Mr. Hooker remarked, "Surely this man will not long be out of heaven, for he preaches  
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\* For farther particulars, see Winthrop's Journal, p. 216.

† Mather's Magnalia, p. 78.

as if he were there already." This prediction was soon verified. After a short sickness of ten days, he expired August 9, 1641. During his last illness his faith, patience, and piety were conspicuous. After some conversation with the friends who surrounded his dying bed, he requested the company to withdraw that he might have opportunity to pray awhile by himself, but, perceiving their reluctance at leaving him, "he prayed in Latin so long as he had strength to do it." He then took an affectionate leave of his wife and family, and died in peace.

His widow afterwards married the Honourable Richard Dummer, Esq. with whom she lived happily more than forty years.

Mr. Burr left four children. His eldest son was educated at Harvard College.

Rev. John Wilson, jun. was ordained "as co-adjutor with Rev. Mr. Mather, the teacher, in 1649." After two years he was removed to Medfield, where he was pastor forty years. "The Lord's day preceding his translation he preached both forenoon and afternoon fervently and powerfully. The Lord's day that he expired the greater part of his church were present to behold and lament his removal from them, which was on August 23, 1691."\*

He was son of Rev. John Wilson, first minister of Charlestown; received an education at Harvard College, and graduated with the first class in 1642.

After Mr. Wilson went to Medfield the church invited Mr. *William Stoughton*, afterwards lieutenant-governour, to take the office of teacher. This, though repeated several times, he persisted in declining; but gave his occasional assistance in preaching for some years, "for which he received compensation both from the town and church."†

Rev. Josiah Flint was ordained Dec. 27, 1681; Mr. Mather having been dead nearly two years. He was son of Rev. Henry Flint of Braintree; graduated at Harvard College in 1664; and continued in the pastoral office in Dorchester till his death, which was on the 16th of September, 1680, in the 35th year of his age. The only publication of Mr. Flint's that I have met with is an epistle dedicatory to "Mrs. Bridget Usher," his aunt, prefixed

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\* Dorchester Church Records.

† Ibid.

ed to a sermon of Rev. Leonard Hoar, reprinted at Boston by John Foster, in 1680.

Rev. John Danforth was ordained here on the twenty-eighth of June, 1682. The churches sent to were, the one in Boston of which Mr. Eliot was pastor, Roxbury, Dedham, Milton, Braintree, Weymouth and Medfield. There were two meetings on the day. Mr. Increase Mather preached in the forenoon, and Mr. Danforth delivered a discourse in the afternoon from 2 Kings ii. 14. "Where is the Lord God of Elisha?" Mr. Eliot gave the charge.

He continued in office to the time of his death, May 26, 1730, aged 78.

He was son of Rev. Samuel Danforth of Roxbury; and graduated at Harvard College in 1677, and was afterwards a Fellow of the corporation.

The following character is extracted from Blake's manuscript annals. "He was said to be a man of great learning. He understood the mathematicks beyond most men of his function. He was exceeding charitable, and of a very peaceful temper. He had a good taste for poetry. † He

† I have seen several elegiac pieces of his in English hexameter verse. Those which possess the most poetical merit are, "Two vast enjoyments commemorated and two great bereavements lamented, in two excellent persons, viz. Rev. *Peter Thacher* pastor of the church of Christ in Milton, who was born into this world July 18, 1651, and ascended to a better world, Dec. 17, 1727, *Æt.* 77, and in the 47th of his pastorate; and Rev. *Samuel Danforth*, pastor of the church of Christ in Taunton, whose nativity was Dec. 18, 1666, and his translation to the heavenly paradise Nov. 14, 1727, fifteen days after the first shock of the great earthquake in New-England." The other poem is "on the death of Mrs. *Anne Eliot*, the virtuous consort of Rev. John Eliot, first minister of Roxbury, who exchanged worlds March 24, 1687, in the 84th year of her age." To which are added "verses to the memory of Mr. *John Eliot*, teacher to the church of Christ in Roxbury, and a propagator of the Gospel among the Indians in New-England. Who rested from his labours May 20, 1690, *Æt.* 86." The following version of Mr. Eliot's hints respecting the best methods of gospelizing the Indians may serve as a specimen of the poetry.

"Address, I pray, your senate for good orders  
To civilize the heathen in our borders.  
Virtue must turn into necessity,  
Or this brave work will in its urn still lie.

'Till

He took much pains to perpetuate the names of many of the good christians of his flock by writing inscriptions and epitaphs for their grave stones; and yet the world is so ungrateful that he has not a line written to preserve his memory. He was buried in Lieut. Gov. Stoughton's tomb; and there also lieth his consort Mrs. Elizabeth Danforth.

Mr. Danforth published several sermons of which I have seen the following.

"Kneeling to God at parting with friends; or the fraternal intercessory cry of faith and love; a sermon preached at the departure of Rev. Mr. Lord and his church to go to Carolina." 1767.

"The blackness of sinning against the light; a sermon on Rom. i. 21." 1710.

"Sermon on the death of Edward Broomfield, Esq."

"Judgement begun at the house of God," &c. 1716.

"Two sermons on the earthquake." 1727.

Fast sermon, on Exod. ix. 33, 34.

He also preached the artillery election sermon in the year 1693: but I do not know whether it was printed.

Between six and seven months before Mr. Danforth's death, Rev. Jonathan Bowman was ordained his colleague; Nov. 5, 1729. The churches sent to were Lexington, Roxbury, Scituate, Braintree, Milton, and Stoughton. Mr. Hancock preached from 2 Cor. xi. 28. Mr. Danforth gave the charge, and Mr. Walter gave the right hand of fellowship.

Mr. Bowman continued in the pastoral relation till Dec. 14, 1773, when at his request, he was dismissed. He died March 30, 1775, aged 68.

He was graduated at Harvard College in 1724.

Though a good scholar, and a handsome composuist,  
yet

"Till *agriculture* and *cohabitation*  
Come under full restraint and regulation,  
Much you *would* do you'll find *impracticable*  
And much you *do* will prove *unprofitable*.  
In common lands that lie unfenc'd you know,  
The husbandman in vain doth plow and sow;  
We hope in vain the plant of *grace* will thrive  
In forests where *civility* can't live."

yet such was his diffidence that he declined preaching on publick occasions, and never consented to have any of his sermons printed.

The successor to Mr. Bowman was Rev. *Moses Everett*. He was ordained September 28, 1774. The churches sent to were, the first church in Stoughton, Milton, the first church in Dedham, Dr. Eliot's church in Boston, the church in Ipswich, of which Rev. Mr. Cutler is pastor, the third church in Roxbury, the Old North church in Boston, and Dr. Cooper's church there. Rev. Mr. Haven preached from 2 Cor. iv. 5. Mr. Dunbar gave the charge, and Dr. Eliot the right hand of fellowship.

By reason of ill health Mr. Everett was induced to ask a dismissal; to which the church and people, after expressing their kindness to him, and duly weighing the matter, consented. The relation was accordingly dissolved January 14, 1793. He now lives among them a private gentleman and christian, much respected.

Mr. Everett published "a sermon at the ordination of his brother Rev. Oliver Everett to the pastoral care of the New South church in Boston," 1782; and a "sermon before a society of young men in Dorchester."

Rev. *Thalideus Mason Harris*, the present pastor, was ordained October 23, 1793.

*A list of those who went from Dorchester to receive an education at Harvard College.\**

Graduated 1643. Samuel Mather, A. M. son of Rev. Richard Mather of Dorchester. He was afterwards a Fellow of the college; and first preacher at the North church in Boston, where his brother and nephew were in after time settled. He went over to England in the time of Cromwell, and was chosen one of the chaplains in Magdalen college, Oxford. Afterwards he went over to Ireland, and became one of the senior Fellows of Trinity college in Dublin. Upon the inforcement of the act of uniformity in 1662, he left all his preferments in the church, and  
became

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\* The writer is sensible that these are but imperfect sketches. His information in many instances was very deficient; but he hopes those who have it in their power will communicate, through the Historical Society, a more circumstantial account.



became pastor of a congregation of dissenters in Dublin, where he died in the year 1671. "He was a good scholar, and a generous spirited man. He was the author of a very valuable treatise "on the figures and types of the Old Testament," which was published by his brother after his death."†

1647. Nathaniel Mather, A. M. brother to the preceding, and his successor in the pastoral care of the church in Dublin, whither he went from Barnstable, New-England, where he was first settled. After that he was pastor of a church at Rotterdam: but about the time of the revolution he went over to England, and was chosen pastor of a dissenting congregation in London, where he died in 1697, in great esteem among his brethren for learning and piety. Aged 67.

William Brimsmead. He was educated at Harvard College, but never had a degree. Several of his class, equally dissatisfied with him, with a vote of the corporation requiring four years residence at college previous to a degree, took up their connections (in the year 1647), because, at the time of their admission, three years residence entitled students to that honour. He was first employed as a preacher at Plymouth, but afterwards settled at Marlborough, September 20, 1660. He was never married. "Where, or how he lived is unknown to the descendants of his charge; and nearly all that perpetuates his memory is an unlettered stone. He died July 3, 1701."‡

He preached the election sermon on May 11, 1681, on Jeremiah vi. 8. "Be instructed, O Jerusalem, lest my soul depart from thee; lest I make thee desolate, a land not inhabited."

He is characterized as "a well-accomplished servant of Christ."

Ichabod Wiswall was in the same class, and left college for the same reasons. He settled at Duxborough, where he was minister about thirty years. He was employed by the colony of Plymouth as their agent to the court of  
Great-

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† Neale.

‡ Rev. Mr. Packard's account of Marlborough. Hist. Collections, Vol. IV. p. 47.

Great-Britain. He deceased July 20, 1700. He was considered as "a man of eminent accomplishments for the service of the sanctuary," "gave undoubted evidence of abilities and virtue," so that his death was "accounted a great loss to the country." \*

1650. William Stoughton, A. M. son of Col. Israel Stoughton. "A person of eminent qualifications, honourable extract, liberal education, and singular piety." † For a number of years he was a preacher of the gospel, with great acceptance. His sermon at the annual election, (April 29, 1668) has been ranked "among the very best delivered on that occasion."

He was ambassador from the province of Massachusetts to the court of Great-Britain; chief justice of the superiour court; lieutenant governour under Sir William Phipps, and after him commander in chief till the coming of his excellency Richard earl of Belmont; lieut. governour with him during his stay in the country; and after him commander in chief again till his death. He deceased July 7, 1701, aged 70. He was interred at Dorchester, July 15, "with great honour and solemnity, and with him much of New-England's glory." ‡

The inscription on his monument is published in the Collections of the Historical Society, vol. ii. page 10.

He was a generous benefactor to Harvard College. Stoughton hall was erected at his expence. He also left a tract of land in Dorchester for the support of scholars at the college, and another for the benefit of publick schools in the town.

1650. John Glover, son of John Glover, Esq. of Dorchester, who bequeathed a sum of money for the support of scholars at college. I believe Mr. Glover was a physician at Roxbury. He received the degree of *Doctor of Medicine* from Aberdeen.

Pelataiah Glover. Though educated at Cambridge, it seems that he never received a degree there. He was born 1637. Ordained at Springfield June 18, 1661, "when a church was first gathered there;" and was their minister many years.

1651.

\* Fairfield's MS. Journal.

† Ibid.

‡ Ibid.

1651. Jonathan Burr, A. M. son of Rev. Jonathan Burr of Dorchester.

1656. Eleazer Mather, son of Rev. Richard Mather of Dorchester. He was born May 13, 1637. When a church was gathered at Northampton in 1661, he was ordained over it June 23. "Here he laboured for eleven years in the vineyard of the Lord; much admired as a man of talents and exalted piety, and as a zealous preacher."

There was printed at Cambridge, 1671, in a 4to. pamphlet, "Serious exhortation to the present and succeeding generation in New-England, earnestly calling upon them all to endeavour that the Lord's gracious presence may be continued with posterity; being the substance of the *last sermons* preached by Eleazer Mather, late pastor of the church at Northampton." In a copy of this publication which I have seen, is the following note in the hand-writing of Dr. Increase Mather. "The first sermon was preached June 13, 1669; the second, June 27 following; the third, July 4th; the fourth and last, July 11th; after which day my brother Eleazer lived not in health able to preach: for July 13th he took to his bed, and July 24, he went to rest in the Lord, to keep an everlasting Sabbath in heaven."

He died in 1669, aged 32 years.

1656. Increase Mather, A. M. brother to the former. Ordained in the North Church in Boston, May 27, 1669. Appointed president of the college in 1685, but resigned that office, 1701. Received a degree of *Doctor of Divinity*. Died August 23, 1723, aged 85.

1665. Hope Atherton, son of Major-General Huniphrey Atherton, baptized at Dorchester August 30, 1646. In 1667 and 1668, he kept the school here, whence he was dismissed, and settled in the ministry at Hadley.

1667. John Foster. A printer and astronomer. He lived in Boston. To his almanack of 1681 he annexed an ingenious "dissertation on comets, their motion, distance, and magnitude;" followed by observations on the comets seen at Boston in November and December, 1680. He died September 9, 1681, *Æt.* 33. His grave stone bears the following inscription:

Astra

Astra colis vivens, moriens super æthera Foster  
 Scande precor, cœlum metiri disce supremum ;  
 Metior atque meum est, emit mihi dives Jesus,  
 Nec tenior quicquam nisi grates solvere.

1671. Samuel Mather, A. M. Settled at Windsor in Connecticut. He was one of the first trustees of Yale college, and died 1728, aged 77.

1675. James Minot, son of Mr. James Minot of Dorchester, and nephew to the Hon. William Stoughton, Esq. born 1659. He dwelt in Concord, where he held the military rank of captain, and was a justice of the peace for the county of Middlesex.

1677. Edward Payson, A. M. for many years a minister at Rowley. Died August 22, 1732, aged 75 years, 2 months, and 10 days.

1677. Joseph Capen, A. M. son of John Capen of Dorchester; baptized January 2, 1658. Ordained at Topsfield June 4, 1684. Died June 30, 1725, Æt. 67.

1690. Nathaniel Clap, A. M. son of Nathaniel Clap of Dorchester; baptized January 24, 1668. He was many years a minister at Newport in Rhode-Island; and died October 30, 1745, aged 78. From a discourse on his death by Rev. J. Callender, from Hebrews xiii. 7, 8. the following characteristic traits of this venerable man are extracted.

“The main stroke in his character was his eminent sanctity and piety and an ardent desire to promote the knowledge and practice of true godliness in others.”—“As his understanding was above the common level, so was his learning.”—“He thought his station required more than common instances of innocency, self-denial, and caution.”—“He was zealously attached to what he considered as the true doctrines of grace, and to the forms of worship he thought to be of divine institution: But his charity embraced good men of all denominations.—He had little value for mere speculative, local, nominal Christianity, and a form of godliness without the power. He insisted most on those things on which our interest in Jesus Christ and our title to eternal life must depend; that *faith* by which we are justified and have peace with God through our Lord

Lord Jesus, and that *repentance* towards God and *new obedience*, which are the necessary effect and evidence of our regeneration, and the proper exercise of Christianity.”

“He abounded in acts of charity and beneficence to the poor and necessitous—to whom he was a kind father and guardian.”

“In fine, he was a publick blessing, as an able minister of the New Testament, an example of unsuspected piety, and an honour to religion.”

“There are two things in which he excelled in so remarkable a manner, that I must not omit them: his care about the education of children, and his concern for the instruction of servants.”

“He abounded in contrivances to do good by scattering books of piety and virtue, not such as minister questions and strife, but godly edifying; and put himself to a very considerable expence that he might, in this method, awaken the careless and secure, comfort the feeble minded, succour the tempted, instruct the ignorant, and quicken, animate, and encourage all.”

“The conclusion of his life and ministry was a peaceful and happy death, without those raptures which some boast of, but with perfect resignation to the will of God, and good hope and humble confidence in Christ Jesus, who was the sum of his doctrine and the end of his conversation.”

1693. Henry Flint, Esq. A. M. son of Rev. Josiah Flint of Dorchester. He was fifty-five years a tutor at Harvard College, and one of the Fellows of the Corporation sixty. He died February 13, 1760. A discourse was delivered at his funeral by Rev. Dr. Appleton from Psalm cxii. 7. which pays a just tribute to his piety, learning, and worth; and an elegant Latin oration by James Lovell, A. M.

A volume of Mr. Flint's sermons was published in 1739, which possesses considerable merit.

1695. John Robinson, A. M. ordained at Duxborough, Nov. 18, 1702, where he was minister nearly forty years. Died 1739, aged 64.

1698. Richard Billings, A. M. son of Ebenezer Billings of Dorchester, baptized Sept. 23, 1677. He was settled at Compton in the state of Rhode-Island.

1700.

1700. Robert Breck, A. M. son of John Breck of Dorchester, baptized Dec. 10, 1682. Ordained at Marlborough October 25, 1704. Died Jan. 6, 1731, Æt. 49.

1701. Samuel Wiswall, A. M. son of Enoch Wiswall of Dorchester, baptized Sept. 21, 1679. The following character of him is extracted from the Boston Gazette for the year 1746, No. 1325.

“Rev. and venerable Mr. Samuel Wiswall, late pastor of the church at Edgartown, was a son of worthy and pious parents in the town of Dorchester; had his education in Harvard College, where he made good proficiency in learning, and had a good character for his sobriety.

After he had taken his degree of M. A. in the year 1704, designed to devote himself to the work of the ministry, he offered himself to the examination of an association of approved divines, to try his qualifications for the sacred employment which he desired to engage in: and, having their good approbation and encouragement, he preached awhile transiently as he had opportunity; and went a foreign voyage chaplain of a ship, which was unhappily taken by the Spaniards and carried into *Martinico*, where he underwent a dangerous fit of sickness, but God sparing his life he returned to his country again.

Here he preached as God called him to it, and his labours were well accepted. Particularly at *Nantucket* he preached about half a year, and was well esteemed of by the people of every profession there.

On his return from *Nantucket*, he was invited to preach at *Edgartown*, as an assistant to the very pious and aged Mr. Jonathan Dunham, and was ordained a pastor of that church in the year 1713, where he continued his faithful and painful labours as long as he lived.

He was, by all competent judges who knew him, esteemed a learned and judicious divine. His sermons were well composed and rational, and upon well chosen subjects; though his utterance was not so free and flowing as some others. His prayers were very fervent, and well suited to the occasions of them. His memory was so good that he had no need of notes in the delivery of his discourses.

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He was a person of eminent and singular piety, which greatly recommended him and all that he did; a faithful, kind, obliging, and instructive friend; charitable and candid to all who differed from him in sentiment; remarkably humble, he willingly took up with a very small salary, and gave considerable part of it to his poor neighbours. He chose never to engage in matrimony, that he might not be encumbered with too many of the cares of this life, but that he might attend the work of the ministry without distraction; and gave himself to reading, meditation, and prayer.

He was more careful to avoid even all the very appearances of evil, and would sometimes say he was "more afraid of sin than of hell."

He was often infirm with regard to his bodily state, and in the last years of his life his infirmities increased upon him: and his not abating his labours in proportion to the decay of his strength has been supposed to hasten his death; especially in the time of the sickness and mortality a little before he died it is thought that he underwent more than he was well able to bear.

He died at last suddenly, having been in his study the day before his death, which was on the 23d of Dec. 1746, in the 68th year of his age."

1702. Peleg Wiswall, A. M. School-master at the north end, Boston. Died 1767, aged 84.

1703. Elijah Danforth, A. M. son of Rev. John Danforth of Dorchester, baptized Dec. 2, 1683. He was a physician at Castle William [now Fort Independence], and died October 8, 1736, aged 53.

1704. Ebenezer White, son of James White of Dorchester, baptized July 12, 1685. Ordained at Attleborough October 17, 1716.

1711. Samuel Blake, A. M. son of John Blake of Dorchester, born Sept. 26, 1691: was a school-master at Barnstable.

1715. Samuel Danforth, A. M. son of Rev. John Danforth of Dorchester; baptized Nov. 15, 1696. He was judge of the court, and in 1774 a mandamus counsellor. He died 1777, aged 81.

1723. Nathaniel Glover, A. M. Clerk in the store of Thomas Hancock, Esq. of Boston.

1724. Philips Payson, A. M. First minister of Walpole. Ordained in the year 1728, died January 22, 1778, aged 74.

— Isaac Billings, A. M. Resided in Milton.

— Richard Pierce, A. M. Minister at Dartmouth, since called New-Bedford: ordained in 1737. "He was obliged to leave the profession, after a certain number of years, on account of bodily infirmities."

1725. Ichabod Wiswall: for many years a school-master at Martha's Vineyard.

— James Robinson, A. M. Physician at Newport.

1729. Samuel Mosely, A. M. Pastor of the church at Hampton in Connecticut. He died July 26, 1791, in the 83d year of his age and 57th of his ministry, after a tedious confinement of nine years from a paralytick shock, attended with pains caused by rheumatick and asthmatick disorders extremely distressing, and at times excruciating. His patience and resignation under these complicated disorders was exemplary; and his constant regard to the interest of religion was very conspicuous in his improving the last remains of his life, strength, and reason (which last by a kind Providence was remarkably continued to him amidst the united attack of so many diseases) in frequent heavenly conversation, and making use of every opportunity to vindicate the doctrines and advance the cause of religion.

Mr. Mosely was honoured as an accomplished gentleman and scholar. He was a careful economist, but given to hospitality; remarkably intrepid in whatever he thought his duty, both with regard to practice and opinion, but open to conviction, and when led to discover his mistake, frank in confessing it. He was zealous to maintain a strict discipline, and though some might think him rigid in some instances, he thought the danger in the churches in general was on the other extreme.—In his ministerial character he was a faithful servant of Jesus Christ; a sound skilful divine, carefully steering between the extremes of scepticism and bigotry, and of censoriousness and universal catholicism. He avoided such doctrines on the



the one hand as would discourage a diligent attendance on the means of grace, or on the other would encourage persons to place an undue dependance on their own endeavours. He advocated the necessity, sufficiency, and efficacy, of the atonement—the free and sovereign grace of God, the absolute necessity of regeneration, and a divine influence to support it. At the same time he boldly inculcated the utility and necessity of moral duties.

A sermon was preached at his funeral by Rev. James Cogswell, D. D. of Windham, from Revelations iv. 17. in which are some more particular traits of his character as a minister, a parent, and a friend, which places it in a very respectable light.

1730. William Royal, A. M.

—— Lemuel Trott.

1731. Supply Clap, A. M. for a number of years minister at Woburn.

1732. Mather Withington, eldest son of Mr. Ebenezer Withington of Dorchester. After he took his degree he kept a school at Cape-Ann. He commenced preaching, and much esteemed for his talents, virtues, and piety. He died April 28, 1736. His manuscripts in arithmetick, geography, geometry and astronomy, discover his great proficiency in those sciences. He had calculated eclipses for many years. These manuscripts were purchased by Rev. Mr. Prince of Boston for his son, "between whom and young Mr. Withington was an intimate acquaintance." They are now in the possession of his brother, Capt. Ebenezer Withington. They bear a handsome tribute to the ingenuity, learning, and piety of Mr. Withington in the hand writing of Mr. Prince.

1735. Gillam Tailor, A. M. physician, son of William Tailor, Esq. lieutenant-governour.

—— Noah Clap, A. M. This worthy gentleman was a descendant from one of the most ancient and pious families in New-England; and inherited and exemplified their simplicity of manners, sincerity, purity, and piety.

For several years he was exercised in various places as a preacher of the gospel, but on account of the precarious state of his health never settled in the ministry.

For eighteen years he kept the grammar school in Dorchester;

chester ; for more than thirty was treasurer and selectman ; and for forty-seven was town clerk.

He was a great antiquarian, and had stored up a vast fund of information respecting the early settlement and history of this country. The late Dr. Belknap found great assistance in his most interesting researches from consulting him.

He deceased April 10, 1799, aged 82 ; leaving behind him a widow and six children.

A tribute of respect was paid to his memory, by the writer of this, on the Lord's day after his decease, in a sermon from those words, 2 Corinthians i. 12, in themselves strikingly descriptive of his manners, his conversation, his life, and his hope.

1741. Thomas Jones, A. M. minister at Woburn a number of years : died March 13, 1774, aged 53.

1742. Nathaniel Hatch, A. M.

1744. Edward Bass, A. M. and D. D. He was born at Dorchester, Nov. 23, 1726 ; and entered college at the early age of thirteen. From the time of taking his first degree, till he received that of Master of Arts, he was engaged in instructing a school, occupying his leisure hours in such studies as were suitable to the profession for which he was intended. From 1747 to 1751, he resided at the college, making progress in theological studies, and occasionally supplying vacant pulpits in the Congregational churches. In 1752, at the invitation of the Episcopal society in Newburyport, he went to England, and on the 24th day of May was ordained by the excellent Dr. Thomas Sherlock, then bishop of London, in his chapel at Fulham. In the autumn of the same year he returned to New-England, and soon after took charge of the church in Newbury, at that time vacant by the death of Rev. Matthias Plant.

In July, 1789, the university of Pennsylvania conferred on him the degree of Doctor in Divinity. In 1796, he was unanimously elected, by the convention of the Protestant Episcopal churches of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the office of bishop of that church ; and was accordingly consecrated in Christ Church on the 7th day of May, 1797, by the bishops of Pennsylvania, New-York, and

and Maryland. On the 27th day of the same month he was received and acknowledged in the most affectionate and respectful manner by the clergy of his diocese then assembled in Trinity Church, Boston. Some time after, the Episcopal churches in the state of Rhode-Island elected him their bishop, and the last summer a convention of the churches in New-Hampshire also put themselves under his jurisdiction.

Bishop Bass was a sound divine, a critical scholar, an accomplished gentleman, and an exemplary christian. On the 10th of September, 1803, after an illness of but two days, he died as he had lived, full of piety, resignation, and humility.

In the same class with Dr. Bass was Samuel Bird, of Dorchester; but he did not obtain his degree in consequence of some rash censures upon some of the governours of the college and the venerable clergyman of Cambridge, which were dictated by religious enthusiasm. He was afterwards settled as a minister at New-Haven, where he died.

— James Humphrey, A. M. the first minister at Pequog, since called Athol. Born March 20, 1722. Died May 8, 1796, aged 74.

1753. Thomas Oliver, A. M. lieutenant-governour in the year 1774.

1755. Jonathan Bowman, A. M. son of Rev. Jonathan Bowman of Dorchester. *Now living in the District of Maine.*

1760. James Baker, A. M. *Now living in Dorchester.*

1761. John Bass, brother to bishop Bass. *Now living.*

— Daniel Leeds, A. M. school-master at Dorchester about fifteen years. Died June 7, 1790, aged 57.

1764. William Bowman, A. M. son of Rev. Jonathan Bowman. *Now living.*

1769. James Blake. He entered college at the age of fifteen; and exhibited there an eminent pattern of studiousness and proficiency in learning. Distinguished for the purity of his morals, the exemplariness of his conduct, and the sweetness of his temper, he conciliated the love of all his fellow students, and the high approbation of his instructors. After taking his first degree, he went to Weymouth to take the charge of a school, which he kept to general satisfaction. That employment he resigned, in  
about

about nine months, and devoted himself to the study of divinity under the instruction of Rev. Mr. Smith.—“He pursued this his favourite study with unwearied assiduity for a year, and then began the important work of the ministry, but not without great reluctance; for he had determined not to preach till he had acquired a perfect knowledge in the fundamental parts of religion (which cannot be done in the small space of a year.) But Mr. Smith being sick, he was many times urged to supply his place until he recovered, which, after repeated denials, he did. Thus having made a beginning, he continued almost every sabbath till he died.”

“With respect to his publick character, he did not affect to be ostentatious, and to divert the minds of his hearers by a flow of words to little significancy, but his main design was to edify them in the way of their duty: accordingly his discourses were plain and instructive; and his delivery was easy and agreeable, accompanied with a few natural gestures.”

“In his private character he was sober and temperate, friendly and sociable, and in conversation entertaining and edifying. To these was joined an even temper and disposition of mind; all which made him very agreeable.”

He died November 17, 1771, after a very short illness, wanting one month of being twenty-one years old.

A small volume of his sermons was published by his friends, which discover a strength of mind, a clear and comprehensive intellect, a knowledge of theoretical and practical divinity, and an ardent piety, truly wonderful in so young a person. From the biographical sketch annexed to that work the above particulars are extracted.

1772. John Homans, A. M. During the American war a surgeon in the army, and afterwards settled as a physician in Boston. In 1790 he was elected a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society. “Dr. Homans had received from nature a great share of superiour sense, which was well cultivated, and evinced a mind rich in bright ideas and refinedly polished by education. As a physician he was not inferiour to any of his age; he was employed much, and greatly approved.” The duties of this profession

fession he discharged with great tenderness and humanity ; and in behalf of the poor with disinterested benevolence.

Having been several years quite an invalid, in the year 1800 he undertook a voyage to the north-west coast of America for the recovery of his health, but died on the second day after the departure of the vessel, June 3, in the 47th year of his age.

- 1782. Jonathan Bird, A. M.
- 1783. Daniel Leeds, A. M.
- 1787. Benjamin Beale, A. M.
- 1793. John Pierce, A. M. ordained at  
Brookline March 15, 1797.
- 1794. James Blake Howe.
- 1795. Samuel Topliff, A. M.
- 1796. Moses Everett, A. M.
- 1797. Elisha Clap, A. M. *Tutor.*
- Henry Gardner, A. M. M. B.
- 1802. Joseph Gardner.
- Benjamin Andrews Hitchborn.
- James Keadie Swan.

} *Now living.*

*Chronological particulars, extracted principally from the first book of the Church Records of Dorchester.\**

In the list of church members in the year 1636, are Rev. William Tompson, Rev. George Moxon, and Rev. Samuel Newman. Respecting the first I cannot obtain any information. Mr. Moxon was one of the ejected ministers.† He was the first minister of Springfield ; afterwards he returned to England, and died there September 15, 1687, aged 85. Mr. Newman preached sometime at Weymouth, and then settled as teacher of the church in Rehoboth. He compiled the work which passes under the name of "the Cambridge Concordance." His decease was July 5, 1663.

1652. "A collection was made in the town for the maintenance of the President and Fellows of Harvard College, and for the assistance of poor scholars."

1659. July 5. "The teaching and ruling elders met at  
Roxbury,

\* These are published as furnishing some important dates. A few notes are added.

† Calamy, Vol. II. page 128.

Roxbury, with the messengers of other churches, to hear the Indians make a relation of the work of God upon their soul. At which time there were six that made their relation in the Indian tongue, which was repeated by Mr. Eliot in English, and the truth of each relation was witnessed to by Mr. Pearson of Long-Island, by goodman Fordgier of Martha's Vineyard, and by Mr. Eliot's own son. And because the time would not permit for the other two Indians to make their relation there, that which they made the day before to Mr. Pearson was declared by him. Many questions were put to the Indians, in point of knowledge; and their answers were to the great rejoicing of the hearers."\*

1660. Aug. 26. "Roger Sumner was dismissed, that with other christians at Lancaster, a church might be begun there."

1661. April 28. "Mr. Eleazer Mather, William Clarke, Henry Curlisse, and Henry Woodward, were dismissed to join with some others for the gathering of a church at Northampton."

1664. July 17. "A letter was read to the church from the brethren dwelling at Nonandom; † who, intending to gather a church, desired messengers to be sent from this church to assist therein. The which was granted, and the teaching and ruling elders were chosen. The day appointed is the 20th of this inst. at which time Mr. John Eliot is to be ordained pastor, ‡ and Thomas Wiswall, a late member of this church, to be ruling elder."

— 14th day of 12th month. "Mr. Torrey ordained at Weymouth.

1665. Nov. 19. Mr. Shore ordained at Taunton."

1666. "A contribution was made for poor distressed Christians in England, on account of the great fire and plague in London. The whole amounted to £.40 13 9½."

1667.

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\* The "Relations" of these Indians were afterwards published in a small pamphlet, from which some account of them is extracted, and annexed to this Chronology.

† Afterwards called Cambridge-Village, and since Newton.

‡ For some account of Mr. Eliot see Morton's *New-England's Memorial*, p. 242.

1667. April 7. "A contribution for the distressed people at Cape Fear: amount £.8 4 11½."

— September 9. "A contribution for the King's fleet at the Kirby Islands. £.20."

1668. May 3. Role-on-God, the son of Mr. John Cotton, baptized by virtue of communion of churches; his father being a member of the church at Boston, but there is no officer there to dispense the ordinance at present.\*

— Dec. 9. "Mr. Davenport ordained pastor, and Mr. Allen teacher in the church at Boston."

1670. May 4. "Mr. Oxenbridge ordained at Boston."

— Sept. 13. "Mr. Whitman ordained at Hull."

1672. Sept. 11. "Mr. Moses Fiske ordained at Braintree."†

1673. Dec. 3. "Mr. William Adams ordained at Dedham."‡

1674. Feb. 24. "Died Mr. William Poole, aged 81. He came hither from England; he was a sage, reverend and pious man of God. He was clerk of writs, and register of births, deaths, and marriages in Dorchester about ten years, and often a school-master in the town."

— Nov. 19. "Died Rev. Samuel Danforth of Roxbury, aged 47."

1675. Jan. 5. "A collection made for Mr. Corlet for his labour in preaching during Mr. Flint's sickness."||

1677. — "Mr. Shepherd of Charlestown died of the small-pox."

1678. March 31. "Rev. Mr. Willard installed over the third church in Boston. He had been minister at Groton, but his people there were scattered by reason of the war."§

— April 24. "There was a church gathered at Milton. It was constituted in our meeting-house at Dorchester,

\* The name was afterwards spelt *Roland*, but in the Records it is written as above. He was minister at Sandwich.

† He died Aug. 10, 1708, aged 66.

‡ He died Aug. 17, 1685.

|| Ammi-Ruhamah Corlet, Fellow of Harvard College, died March 1, 1678.

§ Died Sept. 12, 1707.

chester, by the assistance of the elders and messengers of the three churches in Boston and Weymouth, Braintree and Dedham. The magistrates were acquainted with it, but only the governour was here, by reason of the wet and snow season. Mr. Allen did first pray, and then Mr. Flint preached, and afterwards prayed. Afterward the brethren were called on, one after another to declare the work of grace that God had wrought on them to the number of seven; but before they began it was put to the whole assembly, both messengers and others, whether any had any just reason against their proceeding, but all were silent. After they had made their relations, a confession of faith was read by our Elder, unto which they all consented by lifting up of hands. Then those seven brethren were called down into the body of the assembly, and a covenant read unto them unto which they all consented by lifting up of hands. The brethren that entered into this covenant, and made publick relation were these :

Robert Tucker, member of Weymouth.

Anthony Newton	} Members of Dorchester church.
William Blake	
Thomas Swift	
George Sumner	
Ebenezer Clap	

Edward Blake, member of the second church in Boston.

After this was done, there were more of our brethren that did at the same time enter into the same covenant with the former, namely,

Thomas Holman,  
George Lyon,  
Ephraim Tucker,  
Manasseh Tucker and  
James Tucker.

And then Mr. Torey was appointed to give the right hand of fellowship; and Mr. Mather prayed, and a psalm was sung, and the assembly dismissed."

— Nov. 27. "Mr. Norton ordained at Hingham."

— Dec. 1. "Kept by the church as a day of Thanksgiving for the restoration of Capt. Clap to health again; he having been sick about a year and an half."

1680. Sept. 15. "A fast in Dorchester on account of Mr. Flint's sickness."



1681. June 1. "Mr. Thacher ordained at Milton."\*
1688. October 7. "Mr. Walter ordained at Roxbury."
1693. Nov. 29. "Rev. Joseph Bachelor ordained at Dedham."†
1696. April 8. "Mr. Wadsworth ordained at Boston."
1697. April 21. "Mr. Joseph Baxter ordained at Medfield."
1700. August 28. "Mr. Pemberton ordained at Boston."
1702. August. "The mortality at New-York is sore and dreadful. A fast, on account of the sickness there and here. The deaths in Boston in about twelve months amount to 500."
1703. Sept. 26. "Rev. James Bailey ordained at Weymouth."
- "Rev. Mr. Gardner of Lancaster shot by the centry by mistake."
1704. Dec. 10. "Rev. Mr. Thomas Clarke's death, of Chelmsford, lamented in a sermon on Acts xx. 25, &c."‡
1705. May 10. "Mr. T. Bridge ordained in Boston."
1707. April 21. "Rev. Mr. Torrey of Weymouth deceased, who had been 50 years in the ministry; an able, painful, faithful, minister of Christ. *Æt.* 76 or 77.— He was born some weeks before his time, and was kept in warm lamb-skins till the full proper time came."
- Nov. 26. "Peter Thacher, jun. (nephew to Rev. Mr. Thacher of Milton,) ordained at Weymouth."
1708. August 23. "Aged Mr. Chæever, a school-master in Boston died, aged 94."
- Dec. 9. "Rev. Mr. Higginson deceased."
1709. April. "Mr. Cotton, pastor of East-Hampton died suddenly."
- — 9. "Contribution for Mr. Joseph Mors, who preaches at our village."
- 1709.

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\* Died Dec. 24, 1727, aged 77.

† Died April 27, 1723, aged 53.

‡ "A great loss to all our towns, and especially to our frontiers on that side of the country, who are greatly weakened with the loss of such a worthy man." *Fairfield's MS. Journal.*

1709. May 18. "Mr. Joseph Marsh ordained at Braintree." †
1711. May 23. "Mr. Samuel Niles ordained at Braintree, first precinct."
- Nov. 1. "Mr. John Avery ordained at Truro."
1712. Aug. 25. "Rev. Mr. Hobart of Newton deceased, aged 64. He had preached there about forty years; been ordained thirty-eight. *Vir doctus, prudens, pacificus.*"
- Nov. 26. "Mr. Thayer ordained pastor of the second church in Roxbury."
1714. June 11. "Dr. Smith died."
- Sept. 2. "Public fast on account of the drought. No rain until Sept. 22, saving a shower on the Lord's day evening preceding the fast at Dorchester on July 20th and on August 8th and once or twice a little sprinkling. Yet afterwards there was a good harvest of Indian corn."
- Oct. 18. "Mr. Thomas Danforth died at Surinam."
1716. May 23. "Mr. William Cooper ordained at Boston."
- — 24. "Fast at Dorchester, many being sick."
1717. Feb. 24. "Snow in drifts twenty-five feet deep; in the woods a yard generally on a level."
- Aug. 15. "In our village (Punkipog) seventy sick."
1718. June 11. "Mr. Ebenezer Gay ordained at Hingham."
1719. March 22. "Contribution for Mr. Mors."
1721. Oct. 4. "Mr. Perkins ordained at Bridgewater."
- Dec. 6. "Fast at Dorchester on account of the small-pox."
1722. June 6. "Mrs. Danforth died, aged 52."
1723. May 6. "Mr. Samuel Dexter ordained at Dedham." ‡
1724. May 18. "Voted to give from three to four pounds annually to subsist Rev. Mr. Moody at Providence."
- August 16. "Letter from Chatham from Mr. Godfrey and Mr. Morse; but the church would not send messengers so far." 1724.

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† Died March 8, 1726, aged 41.

‡ Died January 29, 1755, aged 55.

1724. Nov. 17. "The council to which we sent messengers, approve of Mr. Fitch's asking a dismissal from the church at Ipswich, and accepting the invitation from Portsmouth."

"*Memorandum.* Before the last commencement Mr. Leverett, president of Harvard College, died suddenly : and in the end of September, governour Saltonstal died suddenly. Men of bright accomplishments."

1725. Nov. 24. "Mr. Ezra Carpenter ordained at Hull."

1726. March. "Mr. Glover died in London."

— July. "Rev. Theophilus Cotton of Hampton died."

— Sept. 5. "Rev. Mr. White was buried."

— Nov. 2. "Rev. John Hancock ordained at Braintree."\*

— — 5. "Rev. Zech. Whitman of Hull deceased, aged 82. *Vir pius, humilis, orthodoxus, utilissimus.*"

1727. October 27, and following; "several shocks of an earthquake."

— Nov. 7. "Fast at Dorchester on account of the earthquake."

— — 14. "Rev. Samuel Danforth of Taunton deceased to the public loss."

— — 15. "Rev. Mr. Dunbar ordained at Stoughton."

— Dec. 17. "Mr. Thacher of Milton died, aged 77."

1728, 9. Feb. 16. "Mr. Ebenezer Clap and Mr. Philips Payson chosen to go to Taunton with the ordained officers of the church to the ordination of Mr. Thomas Clap on the 26th inst."

— July. "Rev. John Williams of Deerfield, Rev. Mr. Blowers of Beverly, and the Rev. Mr. Cotton of Bristol, are lately deceased to the great loss of our churches."

### Notices of Pious Indians.

[Referred to in page 192.]

"Waban was the first that received the gospel. Our first meeting was at his house. The next time we met he had gathered a great company of his friends to hear the word,

\* Died May 7, 1744, aged 42.

word, in the which he hath been stedfast. When we framed ourselves in order in way of government, he was chosen a ruler of fifty. He hath approved himself to be a good christian in church order and in civil order; and a zealous, faithful, and stedfast ruler to his death."

"Piambohou. He was the second man next Waban that received the gospel. He brought with him to the second meeting at Waban's house many. When we formed them into government, he was chosen ruler of ten. When the church at *Hussenemassit* was gathered, he was called to be a ruler in it; when that was scattered by the war, they came back to *Natick* church so many as survived; and at *Natick* he died."

"Old Jacob. He was among the first that prayed to God. He had so good a memory that he could rehearse the whole catechize, both questions and answers. When he gave thanks at meat, he would sometimes only say the Lord's prayer."

"Antony. He was among the first that prayed to God. He was studious to read the scriptures and his catechize, so that he learned to be a teacher. But after the wars he became a lover of strong drink; was often admonished; and finally cast out from being a teacher."

He was exceedingly penitent at his death.

"Nehemiah. This hopeful young man was going out to hunt, with a companion who fell out with him, and stabbed him mortally and killed him. The wicked murderer fled."

"John Owussumug, sen. He was a young man when they began to pray to God. He did not at the present join with them. He would say to me, *I will first see to it, and when I understand it I will answer you.* He did after awhile enter into the civil covenant, but was not entered into church covenant before he died. He was propounded to join to the church, but was delayed, he being of a quick passionate temper. Some litigations prolonged it till his sickness; but had he recovered the church was satisfied to have received him by finishing well."

He was sick and in a great pain a whole year before his death.

"John Speen. He was among the first that prayed to God.

God. He was a diligent reader. He became a teacher, and carried well for divers years, until the sin of strong drink did infect us, and then he was so far infected with it that he was deservedly laid aside from teaching."

"Black James. He was in former times reputed by the English to be a *Pawaw*, but I cannot tell this. I know he renounced and repented of all his former ways, and desired to come to Christ and pray to God, and died well."

NOTES ON COMPTON, A TOWNSHIP IN NEWPORT COUNTY, STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND. SEPTEMBER, 1803.

*Situation. Boundaries.*

COMPTON is situated in north latitude  $41^{\circ}. 29'$ . west longitude from Greenwich  $71^{\circ}. 11'$ . It is bounded north by Tiverton; east by Westport (Mass.); south by the Atlantick ocean; and west by Taunton river, which is sometimes called the east part of Nantasket bay. This river separates Compton from Rhode-Island. It is seventy miles south from Boston; thirty miles south-east from Providence; and six miles east of Newport. The Indian name of the place is Seakonnet, Sagkonate, or Sogkonate. Sogkonate is the name which is used by Church in his history of Philip's war. Whence it assumed its present name is uncertain. It was incorporated Little Compton; but as there is no place of a similar name in America, if in the whole world, the term "Little" has of late been properly dropped, as a useless and cumbersome epithet.

*Ponds.*

There are four ponds in the place, which are called Quicksand, Tunipis or Tunipus, Long pond, and Round pond. The two first lie on the east part of the town; the two last near Sogkonate point. Quicksand is a mile long, fifty rods wide in the middle, from four to six feet deep, is fed by small brooks, and contains fish. Tunipis is fifty rods long, perhaps a mile in circuit, and has no fish. Long pond is nearly drained at the expense of sixty dollars, and has made forty acres of land worth one hundred dollars