

had not the prudence and moderation of Mr. Roger Conant, at that time there present, and Mr. Peirse's interposition, that lay just by with his ship, timely prevented. For Mr. Hewes had barricadoed his company with hogsheads on the stagehead, while the demandants stood upon the land, and might easily have been cut off; but the ship's crew, by advice, promising to help them build another, the difference was thereby ended. Captain Standish had been bred a soldier in the Low Countries, and never entered the school of our Savior Christ, or of John Baptist, his harbinger, or, if he was ever there, had forgot his first lessons, to offer violence to no man, and to part with the cloak rather than needlessly contend for the coat, though taken away without order. A little chimney is soon fired; so was the Plymouth Captain, a man of very little stature, yet of a very hot and angry temper. The fire of his passion soon kindled and blown up into a flame by hot words, might easily have consumed all, had it not been seasonably quenched.

WM  
PEIRCE

In transactions of this nature were the first three years spent, in making way for the planting of the Massachusetts.\*

## CHAP. XIX.

*Several planters transport themselves into New England; Ministers invited to join with them. The first Plantation in the Massachusetts, called Salem.*

Now those that first promoted the design in England were not unmindful that this fair beginning being made, unless it were followed with proportionable endeavors for an orderly settlement of this, all would come to nothing, as the attempts of some others had done before; therefore were they very solicitous not without all due preparation to proceed in this solemn undertaking.

In the first place, therefore, they considered where to find two or three able ministers, to send over to them that or the next year; not doubting but if they could meet with any such, they should be sure not to fail of a

[ consideration ]

considerable number of serious and religious people, that would be willing to go over with them in order to a Plantation, specially if there were any grounded hopes of a settled and orderly government, to direct, protect, and defend the people, and promote the cause of God and of religion amongst them, as well as their civil rights and liberties. Before that spring was over they were informed<sup>1</sup> of one Mr. Higginson, an eminent minister of Leicester, silenced for Nonconformity, of whom they were probably assured that he might be obtained to make a beginning that way. Upon an address made unto him by Mr. Humphry and Mr. White, he looked at it as a call from God, and as Peter did the message from Cornelius, a motion which he could not withstand;<sup>2</sup> so as within a few weeks after this intimation of theirs, himself with his whole family were ready to take their flight into this American wilderness; with whom also was sent Mr. Skelton, a minister of Lincolnshire, another Nonconformist, as also Mr. Bright, a godly minister, though not altogether of the same persuasion as to church discipline.

With these three ministers came over sundry honest and well affected people, in several ships that were employed to transport planters into New England, in the year 1629; all who arrived safe at Naumkeag, intending to settle a Plantation there.

Besides the three forementioned ministers, came over one Mr. R. Smith, soon after called to supply the place of a teaching elder at Plymouth. The prospect of New England did at that time more resemble a wilderness, than a country whose fields were white unto the harvest, that needed laborers to be thrust thereinto.

The number of planters being at that time but few, and all resident at that one Plantation, two of their four ministers were supernumerary.

Naumkeag at that time received the Christian name of Salem. All that were present were ambitious to have an hand in the christening of this infant Plantation; for some, that liked not such affected names, had provided another, but "usus obtinuit," &c. for ever since, custom hath imposed that name, by which it is like to be known

<sup>1</sup> On March 23d.—H.

<sup>2</sup> Acts, xi. 17.—H.

to after ages : the inhabitants being brought under the strong obligation, to live in love and peace one with another, as being the most expedient way to obtain the God of love and peace to be with them, as in a special manner he was, while Mr. Higginson continued amongst them, with Mr. Skelton. But of the four ministers that came hither this year, the Plantation needing but two, that are forementioned, to take care of its instruction, one of them was called to be pastor of the church at New Plymouth, viz. Mr. R. Smith, as was said before, to whom another was afterward added for an assistant, viz. Mr. R. Williams, who arrived here about the year 1631 : an unhappy thing for them who had wanted the benefit, though not of a judge, yet of a teaching priest, near ten years, should after so long delay meet with so great a disappointment, as soon after they found by uncomfortable experience in them both. Concerning the fourth, viz. Mr. Bright, there is at this time little known, and therefore the less is to be said, although one who affected him never the better for his Conformity,<sup>1</sup> gives this character of him ; that he began to hew stones in the mountains wherewith to build, but when he saw all sorts of stones would not suit in the building, as he supposed, he, not unlike Jonah, fled from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Tarshish. The like character is as freely, by the same author, bestowed on another clergyman, called Mr. Blackstone, who on the like occasion, as he saith, betook himself to till the ground, wherein probably he was more skilled, or at least had a better faculty, than in the things pertaining to the house of God ; as if he had retained no symbol of his former profession but a canonical coat.<sup>2</sup> Antiquity was always wont to distinguish persons and places by their garb or habit, whose authority and example cannot well be questioned by the skeptics and juniors of the present age ; but, indeed, for any one to retain only the outward badge of his function, that never could pretend to any faculty therein, or exercise thereof, is, though no honor to himself, yet a dishonor and disparagement to the order he would thereby challenge acquaintance with.

<sup>1</sup> See Davis's Morton, p. 145 ; and Prince, p. 258.—H.

<sup>2</sup> Johnson's History of New England, (sm. 4to. Lond. 1654,) p. 20.—H.