

place for himself and his company elsewhere, which at last was found at Hampton, a Plantation begun towards Pascataqua, about the year 1638.

The next year<sup>1</sup> they of Lynn gathered another church, having invited Mr. Whiting to be their pastor, a man of great worth and learning, that not long before<sup>2</sup> came over from a parish<sup>3</sup> adjoining to Boston, in Lincolnshire. There was some difficulty in settling them in church order anew, in regard they had many of them formerly belonged to another church in Mr. Bachelor's time, according to the usual observation, that many times it is more easy to raise a new building than repair an old one, especially when the persons concerned either want experience or skill in the kind of the architecture as was said to be the case there. But Anno 1637 Mr. Thomas Cobbet, that came over with Mr. Davenport,<sup>4</sup> was called also to Lynn, where he was ordained teacher of the same church whereof Mr. Whiting was the pastor. The learning and abilities of Mr. Cobbet are well known by his writings, since published to the world.

#### CHAP. XXIX.

*Memorable accidents during this lustre of years. The small-pox among the Indians; pestilential fever at Plymouth; with other occurrences worthy to be observed, from the year 1630 to 1636.*

In the year 1633 it pleased God to visit the Colony of Plymouth with a pestilential fever, whereof many died, upwards of twenty, men, women, and children, which was a great number out of a small company of inhabitants. Some of them looked upon a numerous company of strange flies in the spring, like bumblebees, (which coming out of the ground, with a terrible kind of humming noise, so as the woods did ring therewith) to be a presage of that mortality which followed very hot, in the months of June, July and August.<sup>4</sup> But in the end of that year and winter following a great mortality happened among the Massachusetts Indians, whereby thousands of them were swept away, which came by the

<sup>1</sup> Nov. 8, 1636.—H.

<sup>2</sup> He arrived in Boston, May 26, 1636.—H.

<sup>3</sup> Skirbeck.—H.

<sup>4</sup> Bradford, in Prince, pp. 432, 437; Davis's Morton, pp. 173-4.—H.

small-pox, a disease which, [it] is said, is not usual among them, if ever it was there known before. John Sagamore and almost all his people died there at Winnesimmet. James Sagamore, at Lynn, died of the same disease, with most of his people. It is said that those two promised, if ever they recovered, to live with the English, and serve their God.

It is very remarkable, that as about a dozen years before the Southern Indians, about Plymouth, were visited with a kind of pestilential disease, whereby great numbers of them were suddenly taken away, and the country almost depopulated thereby,<sup>1</sup> by which occasion way was made for the English at Plymouth, in their weak condition, to settle peaceably amongst them, so at this time the country of the Massachusetts, that was of all the Indians thereabouts the most populous, was in a manner unpeopled by this disease, by which means room was, as it were, prepared for the English, that now were ready to people it with a new Colony.

This contagious disease was so noisome and terrible to these naked Indians, that they, in many places, left their dead unburied, as appeared by the multitude of the bones of dead carcasses that were found up and down the countries, where had been the greatest numbers of them. Thus, in a sense as it was of old, God cast out the heathen to make room for his people, some parts of the country being thereby made to look like a mere Golgotha.<sup>2</sup>

In June, in the year 1633,<sup>3</sup> fell out a very remarkable accident upon some that belonged to Pemaquid. One Abraham Shurd, and one Captain Wright, with others belonging to that place, being bound for Boston in a shallop, intending to turn into Pascataqua by the way, but just as they were entering into the river's mouth one of the seamen, going to light a pipe of tobacco, set fire on a barrel of powder, which tore the boat in pieces, laden with about £200 worth of commodities, which were all lost. That seaman that kindled the fire was never seen more, (though the rest were all saved) till after-

<sup>1</sup> See Young's *Chronicles of Plymouth*, pp. 183, 206, 229, 234, 258, 259; *Chronicles of Mass.*, pp. 256, 277.—H.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* 226, 305, 306,

<sup>3</sup> 386; *Davis's Morton*, p. 175; *Sav. Win.* i. 115-16, 119-20, 123, 124.—H.

<sup>4</sup> Should be 1632. See *Sav. Win.* i. 79.—H.

wards the trunk of his body was found with his hands and his feet torn off, which was a very remarkable judgment of God upon him ; for one of his fellows wished him to forbear taking tobacco till they came ashore, which was hard by, to whom he replied, that if the devil should carry him away quick, he would take one pipe.

The like judgment befel two lewd persons that lived in service with one of Roxbury,<sup>1</sup> who, rowing in a boat from the Windmill Hill in Boston, struck upon an oyster bank near the channel, and going out of their boat, before they had fastened her, to get oysters, the tide came in before they were aware, and floated away the boat, and they, not being acquainted with the channel, were both drowned on the bank, though they might at first ||easily|| have waded through to the shore. One of them being a little before reproved for some evil, and warned of hell, answered that if hell were ten times hotter, he had rather be there than in service with his master, against whom he had no exception, but only that he had bound himself for some time, and understood afterward that, if he were free, he might have had more wages elsewhere. This happened in August,<sup>2</sup> 1633.

Another accident of like nature fell out at Boston within three years after, viz. March 8, 1636, where a manservant, having stolen something from his master, was only threatened to be brought before authority, yet presently went and hanged himself like Judas, as if he had cause to fear a worse punishment for so small an offence. He was noted to be very profane upon all accounts, much given to cursing and swearing, and frequently using to go from the sermon, on the Lordsday, to steal from his master. He was said also to be very much discontented, which, in probability, contributed not a little to his miserable end. The ground of his discontent was said to be the long time which he was to serve with his master, by whom he was well used ; and the very same day in which he destroyed himself a letter was to have been delivered him from his father, with order to receive money wherewith to buy out his time. He had tied his neck with a cord to a beam, from which he might have reached the floor with his knees.

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<sup>1</sup> " Servants to one Moodye." Sav. Win. i. 106.—H.

<sup>2</sup> Aug. 6th. Ibid.—H.

A maid first espying him was so affrighted with the sight that, not daring to come near him to prevent the mischief, [she] ran to acquaint somebody else with it; but his exit was past, and his life beyond recalling, before they came whom she went to call. Such examples, left upon record, may serve as buoys to give notice of the dangerous temptations that, like rocks which lie unseen, are found in discontented minds, on which they often shipwreck their souls forever, as well as lives.

In December, 1633, one Cooper,<sup>1</sup> of Pascataqua, going to an island in the river there, to fetch sack with which he intended to make merry on the Lord's Day, was carried to sea, with his boy that went with him in his canoe, and were never heard of afterward. Thus they that wander from the path of understanding shall sooner or later, unless they return home by repentance, be found in the congregation of the dead.

In June, 1635, two carpenters, going to wash themselves between Mount ||Wollaston|| and Weymouth, were carried away with the tide and drowned. Those that want skill to swim in the water should keep their footing sure on the firm land.

August 12, 1634, one Craford, with his brother and a servant, (who all came into the country that summer,) having put much goods into a little boat which lay in Charles River, overset the same with the weight of some hogsheads, (as was supposed,) so as they were all three drowned, though one of them could swim well, and though the neighbors also came running forth instantly upon their cry, yet, as it fell out, not soon enough to save any of them from drowning.

This accident was followed with another as sad, on the 20th. of October following, at Salem, where six men, going together a fowling in a small canoe, toward Kettle Island, either with overmuch weight, or want of skill, turned her over into the sea, so as five of them were drowned.

On the 21st of November, that year, two men<sup>2</sup> and two boys going for wood to Noddle's Island, were drowned as they were coming home in the night, in a

|| Wallaston ||

<sup>1</sup> Cowper, says Winthrop.—H.

<sup>2</sup> John Willis "and one Dorety."

Sav. Win. i. 160; Farmer's Genealogical Register.—H.

Northeast storm of snow. Neither of them, it seems, had experience or skill, yet would adventure in that dangerous time of the year, which might serve for a warning to all not to tempt God by undertaking what they have no ability to perform. There was great lamentation for them at Boston, yet needed they not sorrow for them as without hope, in that they were both accounted very religious. Two boats were sent after them when they were first missing,<sup>1</sup> but they could find neither men, nor boat, nor wood, it being ebbing water wherein they were supposed to be lost; but three days after the boat was found at Muddy River, with the bottom upward.

An old man that used to go to sea in a small boat, without any other help save a dog, whom he had taught to steer, sailing down Ipswich River, was warned of a storm that approached, but he answered that he would go to sea, though the devil were there. Whether the devil were there at sea or no, (the storm happening on the 15th of August, 1635,) it is no matter. This his vessel was never seen more by them on the land.

In the year 1632 one Henry Wey, of Dorchester, having gone in a shallop to trade with the Eastern Indians the winter before, and was long missing, this summer it was found that himself<sup>2</sup> and his company were all treacherously killed by the Indians. Another shallop of his being sent out in the spring to seek after the other, was cast away at Agamenticus, and two of the men that were in her drowned. Thus oftentimes he that is greedy of gain troubles his own house; and, instead of gaining a little pelf of this world, loses his own life in the conclusion, which hath been observed as very remarkable on many that have followed that course of life.

In the year 1633,<sup>3</sup> one John Edy, a religious man of Watertown congregation, fell distracted, and getting out one evening, could not be heard of in eight days, at the end of which time he came again of himself. He kept his strength and color all that time, yet was conceived to have eaten nothing all that time. By that means, it was thought, he recovered his understanding, and lived very orderly, only now and then would be a little dis-tempered in his mind.

<sup>1</sup> Nov. 23d.—H.      <sup>2</sup> A mistake; Wey lived until 1667. See Sav. Win. i. 79-80; Blake's Annals of Dorchester, (Bost. 1846) p. 24.—H.

<sup>3</sup> March.—H.

For a conclusion of the memorable accidents during this lustre, it will not be unworthy the reader's consideration to take notice of a sad tempest that happened in the year 1635, on the 15th of August; when there was such a sudden dismal storm of wind and rain, as the like was never in this place known, in the memory of men, before or since; so universal, which passed through the whole country, overturning sundry houses, uncovering divers others, beating down their Indian corn to the ground, which never rose any more, which if it had not been very near the harvest all the corn had been utterly lost, to the undoing of many poor families. Some thousands of trees were torn up by the roots thereby, others broken in pieces, and wound about like withs, though of considerable bigness. The monuments of which sad storm were many years after visible in some parts of the country; nor were the effects of it less terrible on the sea, where it raised the tide to twenty feet in some places right up and down; forcing some of the Indians to climb up the trees to save themselves from drowning, which others not being able to do, perished in the attempt; as befel eight Indians at Narrhaganset, as was credibly reported. And in other places it was observed that the tide was brought into the land twice in twelve hours, or else that it never ebbed all the time that storm lasted, (which was five or six hours,) or was brought back before the ebb was half made.

Some ships were then upon the coast, fraught with passengers and their goods. The veering of the wind to another point was the occasion of preserving one, (wherein Mr. Richard Mather with his family, and Mr. Jonathan Mitchell, but a youth at that time, that proved a worthy minister, and of much use in the country afterwards,) and of dashing another on the rocks near Pemmaquid which was called the Angel Gabriel of Bristol; but that holy seraphim proved not a tutelar Angel thereunto, although the passengers were all preserved alive, losing only their goods.<sup>1</sup> Many things were observed as ominous about ||that|| vessel, ||<sup>2</sup>which|| threatened some great disaster like to befel them, as well as the name, from the time of their first setting out.

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|| <sup>2</sup> that ||

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<sup>1</sup> See Young's Chronicles of Mass., p. 478.—H.

Another vessel<sup>1</sup> sailing that day between Pascataqua and Boston, bound to Marblehead, wherein were many passengers that came over in the foresaid ship, called the Angel Gabriel, was cast away, and but two<sup>2</sup> persons left alive to bring tidings to their friends of what had happened. Amongst them that were lost was one Mr. Avery, a minister of good note, who, with his wife and five children, all perished together. This minister, it seems, with some others was cast upon some rocks, where they had a little respite from death, in which interim this good man, lifting up his eyes to Heaven, yet expecting every moment to be washed off from that place where he was cast into the devouring sea, uttered these his last words: "Lord, I cannot challenge a preservation of my life, but according to thy covenant I challenge Heaven;" which words, as soon as ever he had expressed, the next wave gave him a present dismissal into his eternal rest. This is the only vessel which was known to have been lost with many of its passengers, in their way towards New England; which ought to be acknowledged as a signal mercy that none else, in so long a space of time, should miscarry in sea voyages of that length.

The week before the forementioned storm, that happened August 15th, came up, the wind was observed to blow all the while hard at South and Southwest; and then on the sudden it came up with such extreme violence at Northeast, that it drave many ships, in the harbor before Boston and Charlestown, from their anchors. A ship called the Great Hope, of Ipswich, of four hundred ton, was driven aground on a point<sup>3</sup> beyond Charlestown, but, by a sudden change of the wind to the Northwest, it was brought back again from thence, and ran ashore at Charlestown. The ship before mentioned, that was preserved, was called the James of Bristol, having about one hundred passengers, ||many||<sup>4</sup> of whom, with Mr. Mather their minister, came out of Lancashire, (four of whose sons were ministers afterwards of eminent note and use.) Their preservation was very remarkable; for being put into the Isles of Shoals, (which

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<sup>1</sup> "A bark of Mr. Allerton's." Winthrop.—H.

<sup>2</sup> Anthony Thacher

and his wife.—H.

<sup>3</sup> "Mr. Hoffe's Point." Winthrop.—H.

<sup>4</sup> Conjectural; certainly not *some*.—H.

is no harbor, but an open road,) they lost their three anchors; and setting sail, no canvass or ropes would hold, and so were driven within a cable's length of the rocks at Pascataqua, when the wind, coming suddenly to the Northwest, put them back to the Isles of Shoals, and being there ready to strike upon the rocks, they let out a piece of their mainsail, and by that means weathered those rocks, and so were brought safe into their desired harbor, leaving others behind them, and in the way they passed by, either buried in the rude waves of the swelling ocean, or mournfully beholding their shipwrecked goods floating in the waters; much of which they were despoiled of by the boisterous seamen, no less unmerciful therein than the devouring waves of the sea, that, without regard to the tears or sighs of the poor owners, usually swallow down whatever comes in their way. On such accounts the people travelling into New England had occasion, more than others, to meditate on the 107th Psalm; which, though it were not penned purposely for them, yet, in especial manner, is suited to their condition: "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"<sup>1</sup>

Much hurt was done in the country this year by tempestuous weather. Two shallops, going laden to Connecticut,<sup>2</sup> were taken in the night with an easterly storm, and cast away near the mouth of Plymouth harbor, and the men all drowned.

In the month of October,<sup>3</sup> the same year, a ship's long boat at the Dutch Plantation, with five men in her, was upset by a gust. The men all got upon her keel, and were driven to sea, and were there floating the space of four days, in which time three of them dropt off and were drowned. On the fifth day the fourth man, being sore pained with hunger and thirst, and sore bruised with the waves, wilfully fell off into the sea and was drowned. Soon after the wind, coming up at Southeast, carried the boat, with the fifth man, to Long Island, and being scarce able to creep ashore, was found by the Indians, and preserved by them. He was quite spent with hunger, cold, and watching, and must of necessity, (according to

<sup>1</sup> For further particulars of this storm, see Sav. Win. i. 164-6; Davis's Morton, pp. 179-80; Young's Chronicles of Maas. pp. 473-80, 483-95, 544.—H. <sup>2</sup> Oct. 6th.—H. <sup>3</sup> "This summer," says Winthrop.—H.



reason,) have perished by that time ; but he said he saw such and such (either really or in conceit) come to give him meat.

November 2d, 1632, Mr. William Peirse's ship, going back for England, was cast away on the shoals near Virginia, and twelve seamen and passengers drowned. It happened through negligence of one of the mates that had the watch, and kept not the lead going, as he was appointed, which added much to the sadness of the loss.

April the 10th, 1633, news was brought to Boston of the loss of Mr. Peirse's ship, on the coast of Virginia, wherein were twenty-eight seamen, and ten passengers : seven of them that were drowned were seamen, and five of them passengers. This loss proved no small trial to this poor Plantation ; whereby it is evident that many are the afflictions of the righteous, and that in outward changes all things come alike to all.<sup>1</sup>

But not to stay the reader any longer in beholding the backside of the cloud that overshadowed New-England in this lustre ; there were other more beautiful Providences worthy to be observed during that space of time, as full of light and comfort, as the other were of affliction and sorrow ; especially in their peaceable and quiet enjoyment of the purity of God's worship, in all the ordinances of the Gospel, of which something hath been spoken in the foregoing chapters.

### CHAP. XXX.

*Disturbance, both civil and ecclesiastical, in the Massachusetts, occasioned by Mr. Roger Williams, in the year 1634.*

FEBRUARY the 5th, 1630, arrived Mr. William Peirse at Nantasket ; with him came one Mr. Roger Williams, of good account in England for a godly and zealous preacher, but after he came here he soon discovered himself. He had been some years employed in the ministry in England. He was one of whom it may be affirmed by all that knew him, that he had a zeal, and

<sup>1</sup> This account of Peirse's disaster is inserted, in the MS., immediately after the relation of Thacher's shipwreck, on page 200 ; but a marginal note, in Hubbard's autograph, informs us that "this should be placed last in this chapter."—H.