

manner of elder times, Hudson's streight. Probably every year's experience might add something to a fuller knowledge of the havens, rivers, and most desirable places of the country, by such as came yearly to make fish upon the coast, eastward about the island of Monheggin, Damerille Cove, Casco Bay, Cape Porpoise, [and] Accomenticus, although no colony was ever settled in any of those places till the year 1620, when New Plymouth was first planted within Cape Cod, of which more in what followeth, when there will be just occasion to mention the incredible success of those plantations of New England, that from so small and mean beginnings, did in so few years overspread so large a tract of land by the industry and diligent pains of a poor people, to which alone, next under the blessing of Almighty God, must the success of the whole business be ascribed: it being the declared intent of the adventurers and others that engaged in this design since Capt. Gosnold's voyage in the year 1602, as one Mr. Rosier,¹ that came along with Capt. Weymouth, doth expressly mention soon after, viz. 1605, to propagate God's holy church, by planting Christiauity in these dark corners of the earth, which was the public good they aimed at, more than the advancing their own private or particular ends.

CHAP. III.

Of the situation, bounds, and rivers of New England.

New England, at the first accounted no distinct country of itself, [so] as [to be] worthy of a proper name of its own, was taken only for a part of Virginia: but is of late discovered to be a country of too large a compass any longer to lackey after any other sister, though elder than herself, and therefore deservedly accounted worthy of that adoptive name with which it is honored as one of the principal daughters of the Chief Lady of the European world, from whence she is descended. It is situate in the 315th degree of longitude, betwixt the degrees of 39 and 45 of north latitude, accounting from about Delaware Bay to the south of Nova Francia, the bounds

¹ See his account of the voyage, in Mass. Hist. Coll. xxviii. 125-157.—E.

thereof. On the east side is the great ocean, called the Atlantic Sea, on the west is the Pacific or South Sea, the distance how far being as yet unknown. On the south of New England lies partly the sea and partly the country of Delaware and Virginia. From the head of Cape Cod to the Manatos (now called New York, in honor of his Royal Highness, to whose commissioners it was of late¹ surrendered by the Dutch, and since by treaty to them confirmed,²) the land trendeth away almost due west. On the north lieth that called Nova Scotia, the limits of each country being terminated about St. George or St. Croix, for when Sir John Popham's plantation was begun about Kennibecke, the English were possessed of St. Croix, Mount Mansell,^b probably now called Mount Desert, Penobscot, and Port Royal: but afterwards, when it was known that the French began to encroach upon those places that lie beyond Kennibecke, they were wisely and timely displaced by Sir Samuel Argall, sometimes, and at that time, Governor of Virginia, and likewise chief agent there. How these places fell into the hands of the French nation by purchase from Sir William Alexander without pay, though not without promise, there may be occasion to speak more afterwards, when such occurrants as happened in the same year, when that fell out, come to be spoken unto. The French have been for a considerable time together disturbed in their possession of those places after they had them first in their hands; and that of right the title of them did belong to the English monarch, as he was king of Scotland, Dr. Walker,^c that learned civilian, did, not long since, as is said, declare it before his Majesty and Lords of his Council, when that matter was debated before them, on the account of the French interest. However, it seems upon the account of the French agent, all those places to the east or north east of Pemmaquid, that at any time heretofore were possessed by any persons that belonged to the kings of France, were resigned up unto their possessions again, their demands no doubt being grounded upon such pleas, as to him that made the concession seemed

¹ Aug. 27, 1664. See Holmes's Annals, i. 334.—R.

not only just but honorable. As for the breadth of this whole country under debate, accounting along the shore and sea coast, it seems to amount to near five hundred miles, within the compass of which circuit are many spacious and navigable rivers, which generally at the mouth of them, where they disembogue themselves into the great ocean, afford very commodious havens for ships, wherein they who have made trial, find they anchor and ride safely, and pass up higher into the country with great advantage to the inhabitants on either side. The principal of them to the northward are that at Pemmaquid, and another called Shipscot river, above a mile over at the entrance, within twelve miles of which to the southward lieth Kennibেকে, near a league over at the mouth, navigable about sixty miles up into the country, or more; within whose channel are several islands, capable to entertain a great number of inhabitants. Within a few miles of the aforesaid river lieth Casco Bay, a spacious haven about nine leagues over at the entrance, and running up near twenty miles within its capes. It is filled with a large number of islands, some of which are considerable, where seafaring men have taken up their habitations. At near twenty miles distance to the south, the river of Saco finds its passage into the salt sea, at the mouth of which is a notable haven, called Winter Harbor, that gives encouragement to a number of inhabitants to take their abode there, sufficient to make a plantation; this river is of a considerable breadth many miles higher into the country. The next river of note on that side of the coast, about thirty miles from the former, is that called Piscatoqua, which hath been frequented ever since the country was first planted, by such as came this way for traffic with the inhabitants, natives and others, that have seated themselves in several plantations about the uppermost branches thereof. The channel is very swift and spacious, fit for vessels of great burden for the space of near twenty miles, where it divides itself into many considerable bays and small branches, whose streams are in their passage obstructed with falls of broken rocks,

that put a stop to such as at the entrance might, by the help of its streams, be in hopes of aspiring higher into the inland parts of the country. Merrimack is another gallant river, ||twenty|| miles near hand to the southward, the entrance into which, though a mile over in breadth, is barred with shoals of sand, having two passages that lead thereinto, at either end of a sandy island, that lieth over against the mouth of the said river. Near the mouth of that, are two other lesser ones, about which are seated two considerable towns, the one called Newberry, the other Ipswich, either of which have fair channels, wherein vessels of fifty or sixty tuns may pass up safely to the doors of the inhabitants, whose habitations are pitched near the banks on either side. Merrimack is a very stately river near the mouth of it, and runs near a hundred miles up into the country, and would be of great advantage to many small towns seated on several lesser streams that loose themselves in its greater channel, were it not for several falls that obstruct the quiet passage of the streams before it hath run twenty miles within the land; which disadvantage attends most of the great rivers of New England, throughout the whole country: on the banks of whose streams are many veins of very rich and fertile land, that would receive abundance more inhabitants, who might live as well as in most places of the world, were it not for the intolerable burden of transportation of their goods by land, for want of navigable channels in those rivers. Charles river is the next to be taken notice of, issuing its waters into the bottom of the Massachusetts Bay, and affords as gallant an harbor near the mouth of it, as any river of that bigness in all christendom, and runs up twenty or thirty miles into the country, yet not navigable above four or five, which makes it less serviceable to the inhabitants seated up higher upon the banks thereof.^a More to the southward of Cape Cod are very many commodious harbors and havens for ships; and two very great rivers that carry a considerable breadth and deep channels above an hundred miles up into the country. But by reason of great falls, where the

water forceth its passage over great and steep rocks that lie cross over the whole stream, they are made impassable any higher for any sort of vessels, which is the great disadvantage of those that dwell in the upper, or more inland, parts of the country. As touching the said rivers, the one is called Connecticut, running north and south, and distant near an hundred miles from the most easterly point of Cape Cod; first discovered by the Dutch, [and] called by them the Fresh River. About fifty or sixty miles from the entrance of which, are seated the towns of Middleton, Wethersfield, Hartford, and Windsor, and Springfield about twenty-five miles above them; and between thirty and forty miles above them are seated Hadly, Northampton, and Hatfield; above which were Deerefield, and Northfield or ||Squakhegue||, [which] 'for sometime were¹ ruined by the Indians, but since planted again; all which are accommodated with interval land of an excellent soil, and otherwise very desirable, were it not for the distance of a market, and difficulty of transportation. The other is called Hudson's river, running on the same point with the former, so as a west line from Boston at the mouth of Charles river, falls directly thereupon, near Fort Albany, (lately, while the Dutch had the possession, called Fort of Aurania,) near which are very great falls, where the channel has a precipice down near fifty foot in a right descent; but how much higher that great river comes from within the continent, is as yet unknown. At or near the mouth, it is above a league over, and carries his breadth with suitable proportion thereunto, about a hundred and fifty miles; and it is a very stately river upon all accounts, but for the inconveniency of sundry falls much interrupting the passage of the stream, beyond the said place of Fort Albany. From the mouth of this, called Hudson's river, to the mouth of the former, called Connecticut, runneth a great channel between the mainland and that called Long Island, in length making about a hundred miles; in some parts thereof carrying a considerable breadth withall. Other rivers there are besides the aforementioned, not inconsiderable: as that

|| Squakhet ||

¹ Originally written, *for the present are*.—H.

called Pequod river, in the bottom of Narraganset Bay, where it empties itself into the main ocean, making a very goodly haven, near unto which is seated the town called New London; in nothing but the name imitating the glory of the mother city, *that mirror* and famous mart of Europe, if not of the world, unless in the advantage of the stately harbor, and vicinity of the ocean. Twelve miles from which, upon the banks of the same river, is seated another town, called Norwich. But the stream of this water being issued in so small and short a course, it is not mentioned as one of the great rivers of the country; the breadth, a little above the first town, not being in any degree proportionable to that it is below.

CHAP. IV.

Of the temperature of the air and nature of the climate.

The climate of New England lies in the middle, between the frigid and torrid zones, the extremes on either hand; and therefore may be supposed to be in the most desirable place of a temperate air, for the advantage both of wholesome and delightful living, falling into the same latitude with Italy and France: some provinces in both which countries in former times being taken for the most desirable in the whole universe; yet, by reason of some occult and secret accident, is this country known by long experience to partake a little too much of the two extremes of heat and cold, proper to the two opposite regions on either hand, in those seasons of the year when those qualities rise to be most prevailing. Both the sea coast and the continent are indifferently mixt of mountainous champaign lands, the air thereby becoming more salubrious, by far, than the next adjoining province of Virginia to the south, which consisteth generally both of a lower and richer soil; it being found by experience that the vapors drawn out of the earth in the levels and moister parts thereof by the directer beams of the sun, and not purified by the ventilating of the air, as is usually seen in the higher and more hilly countries, it useth to make the places more unwholesome and obnox-