

employed in bringing over the General Governor, and to have been kept there as a man of war; but the design succeeded very ill, for the ship, in the launching, turned on one side and broke her back, which caused them to lay aside their purpose, as was mentioned before, Chap. xxvii. And not long after one of the gentlemen, that was known to be one of the greatest adversaries to the affairs of the Massachusetts, fell sick, and died soon after. In his sickness he sent for the minister, and bewailed his enmity against them, and promised, if he recovered, to be as great a friend to New England as ever he had been an enemy before. But his fatal hour being come, his purposes of that nature were cut off; which should instruct all to do the good they intend, while their time lasteth, for there is no work nor device in the grave, whither they are going.¹ The passage foregoing was certified by letters from my Lord Say and others, to the Governor of New England, about the year 1635.²

CHAP. XXXII.

The general affairs of the Massachusetts, from the year 1636 to the year 1641.

THINGS had hitherto been very successfully carried on in the Massachusetts; and in the entrance of the year 1636, the 25th of May, Mr. Henry Vane, that arrived there with sundry other gentlemen in the year 1635,³ was chosen Governor of the Massachusetts Colony, at which time also Mr. Winthrop was chosen Deputy Governor, and Mr. Roger Harlakenden,⁴ that came along in the same ship with Mr. Vane, the year before, was chosen an Assistant.

There was then as great hopes of the continuance of the peace and prosperity of the Plantation, as ever before, or rather greater. But ||ofttimes|| a bright morning is followed with a dark and obscure evening. Many sad and threatening storms of trouble were observed falling upon that country, before this lustre was half run out, some of which were mingled with showers of blood; although

|| often ||

¹ The individual referred to is John Mason. See Sav. Win. i. 187; ii. 19.—H.

² Ibid. i. 161.—H.

³ See page 177.—H.

in the beginning thereof there were many new Plantations carrying on, both about the Bay, and up higher in the country, as far as Connecticut River, an hundred miles westward from Boston. And now the country increasing, and growing every year more populous than other, by the addition of many hundred families, that every season were resorting thither, it was judged || necessary || to make some further progress in settling the government, by some other forms or ways of Council and Courts of Judicature, for the safety and ease of the people, and to prevent the travelling of the inhabitants many miles from their own places to obtain justice ; long journies at that time being, for want of horses and other means of transportation, very difficult to any sort of people.

Therefore, about the beginning of this lustre,¹ a Standing Council was ordered to be chosen out of the magistrates, and to be for term of life, unless for some weighty cause they were found unworthy ; and the Governor for the time being was always to be President. But since that time, upon further experience, every particular magistrate is declared to be of the Standing Council of the country. At this time there were but three to be the Standing Council, viz. the Governor, Mr. Winthrop, and Mr. Dudley.

Further also, besides the Quarter Courts, when all the magistrates were wont to meet, other particular Courts were ordered² to be kept at Boston, New-Town, (since Cambridge,) Salem and Ipswich, consisting of one magistrate at least, and three or four associates, chosen by the Court out of the persons nominated by the freemen of their several jurisdictions, with liberty ||³ of || appeal to the Quarter Courts, (which, since that time,³ are reduced to two, called the Courts of Assistants, one in March, the other in September, in every year,⁴) if either plaintiff or defendant found themselves aggrieved by the proceedings of those inferior Courts. The proceedings in either of these Courts is after the manner of the Sessions or Assizes, by juries, grand and petit, &c., in the realm of England.⁵

|| reasonable ||

||³ to ||

¹ April 7, 1636.—H.

² In 1639. Ibid. p. 29.—H.

⁴ In the margin.—H.

³ By the law of 1639, says Washburn, *Judic. Hist. Mass.*, p. 30.—H.

⁵ See *Mass. Col. Laws*, (ed. 1672) p. 36.—H.

There were also, about that time, two General Courts established, in which it was ordered that no act should proceed, unless the major part both of the magistrates and deputies should consent; although, since that time, there hath been some alteration so far made, that, in case of non-agreement, both magistrates and deputies should vote together, and the major part of both, so voting, should determine any matter of civil controversy.¹

At the same time it was also enacted, that every particular township should have power of their own affairs, and to set mulcts upon any offender against public order, not exceeding twenty shillings, which power the inhabitants have liberty to exact in their own society, ||on|| their public meeting days, or by their prudential men, whom they have liberty to choose, (the whole not exceeding seven,²) to order the affairs of their several townships.³

As also, in order to the public safety of the Colony, it was about this time divided into three several regiments, that were to be managed by so many Colonels, with their Lieutenants; which yet hath since been altered, and the military matters committed to a Major in every particular County, and to a Major General for the oversight of the whole.⁴

But in the year 1636, under the government of Mr. Vane, many clouds began to gather, threatening a storm, both civil and ecclesiastical, like to ensue ere long. The body of the freemen, having taken much offence at his managing of the chief affairs, did, at the next Court of Election, not only lay him aside from being Governor any longer, making an order immediately, that no man should ever after be made Governor, before he had been one whole year in the country at least, but also left him out from being an Assistant, not willing he should have any further hand in the government; which possibly occasioned his removal back to England, sooner than else he intended, towards the end of the year 1637, whither the present history shall not pursue him; although it is not unworthy taking notice, what an eminent minister

|| or ||

¹ Mass. Col. Laws, (ed. 1672) p. 35.—H.

² Nine, say Col. Laws, p. 148.—H.

³ Ibid. pp. 21, 148.—H.

⁴ Ibid. pp. 107-16; Johnson's Hist. N. E., (Lond. 1654) pp. 190-5.—H.

of the country solemnly declared concerning him, not long before his departure thence, which had its accomplishment in his fatal end not long since, on the Tower Hill in London; which yet is not spoken to prejudice any esteem that Christian people then had of his share in the eternal mercy of the living God.

But to return. In the room of the said Mr. Vane, at the next Court of Election, kept at Cambridge, May the 17th, 1637, (and difficultly carried on, by reason of some obstructions laid in the way, by such as were of the former Governor's party in the country,¹) was chosen Mr. Winthrop as Governor, and Mr. Dudley as Deputy Governor, under whose wise conduct the country soon recovered its former beauty, place, and splendor, which had been very much eclipsed in the misguiding and bad conduct of the former Governor; the particulars of which, and the disturbance occasioned thereby, shall be discoursed by themselves in the following chapters.²

In the year 1638 the Court of Election happened on May 2d, when Mr. Winthrop was again called to be Governor, and Mr. Dudley Deputy Governor, of whose wisdom and integrity the country had had so much and so long experience before, that they were very loath to change any more.

At the same Court liberty was granted for the erecting of several new Plantations within the bounds of the Massachusetts Colony, as at Hampton and Salisbury,³ places situate between the Rivers of Merrimack and Pascataqua, well stored with meadow-lands and salt marshes, although the uplands were something sandy, and likely to be barren.

Liberty also was granted for another Plantation or township, at a place called by the English Sudbury, within five miles of Concord, planted first in the year 1635.⁴

Besides the forementioned Plantations, another was granted to a company that came with an eminent minister of the Gospel, Mr. Ezekiel Rogers, out of Yorkshire, since by them called Rowley, with respect to a town of

¹ See Sav. Win. i. 219; Hutchinson, i. 62.—H. ² See page 255.—H.

³ See page 242.—H.

⁴ Were it not that this paragraph has been misunderstood, I should hardly deem it necessary to remark, that the last five words, with the date, refer to Concord, and not to Sudbury.—H.

that name in Yorkshire, whereof the said reverend person had been a long time minister.¹

But that which was in this year more to be observed, was the founding of a College at that place, called before (in reference to some others formerly planted) New-Town; but now,² with relation to the seat of the muses, who at this time had an invitation thither, and a foundation laid for their future flourishing there, called Cambridge, and which, in honor of a worthy minister, Mr. Harvard by name, that had bequeathed £700 toward so pious a work, was called Harvard College. In the year 1636 there was £400 given by the General Court for the furthering thereof.³

In the year 1637 a committee was chosen to take care about the building of the said College; and in this present year it arose to so much perfection as to have that honorable name imposed upon it. What helps it hath since received by general benefactors, by whom endowed, and of what use it hath been in following times to the promoting of good literature, for the upholding both of church and state, may be mentioned probably afterwards:—most of the towns in the country, at this time about an hundred in all, being furnished with able ministers that there had their education.⁴

At the following election, May 22, 1639, the former Governor and Deputy Governor were continued in their places, as the year before; during which time it might be said of New England, as sometime of Judah, things went well, and were attended with the former prosperity, both in encouraging the just, and bearing witness against the oppressors and unrighteous dealers.

May 12,⁵ 1640, Mr. Dudley was honored with the place of Governor, and Mr. Bellingham with that of Deputy Governor; at which Court there was liberty granted for two other Plantations, in the more inland parts of the country, to the westward of the towns of Ipswich and Newberry; the first called Haverhill, the other Andover, with reference to some of the planters that belonged to those towns in the realm of England.⁶

¹ Sav. Win. i. 279-8, 294, 324.—H.

² May, 1638.—H.

³ See Sav. Win. ii. 87-8, 150, 342; Holmes, i. 247-8.—H.

⁴ See page 247.—H.

⁵ May 13th, says Winthrop.—H.

⁶ Sav. Win. ii. 17, 101.—H.

Hitherunto divine Providence did, with arms of abundant goodness, as a nursing father, uphold this infant Province of New England, as was said of Ephraim, when God learned him to go, taking him by the hand. But for the future they were left more to stand upon their own legs, and shift for themselves; for now there was a great change in the state of the country, the inhabitants being put to great straits by reason of the fall of the price of cattle, the breeding and increase of which had been the principal means of upholding the country next under divine favor, shining out upon them, by many unexpected advantages; for whereas before, all sorts of great cattle were usually sold for £25 the head,¹ by reason of the continual coming over of new families every year to plant the wilderness, now that fountain began to be dried, and the stream turned another way, and many that intended to have followed their neighbors and friends into a land not sown, hoping by the turn of the times, and the great changes that were then afoot, to enjoy that at their own doors and homes, which the other had travelled so far to seek abroad, there happened a total cessation of any passengers coming over; yea, rather, as at the turn of a tide, many came back with the help of the same stream, or sea, that carried them thither; insomuch that now the country of New England was to seek of a way to provide themselves of clothing, which they could not attain by selling of their cattle as before; which now were fallen from that huge price forementioned, first to £14 and £10 an head, and presently after (at least within a year,) to £5 apiece; nor was there at that rate ready vent for them neither. Thus the flood that brought in much wealth to many persons, the contrary ebb carried all away, out of their reach. To help in this their exigent, besides the industry that the present necessity put particular persons upon, for the necessary supply of their families, the General Court made several orders for the manufacture of woollen and linen cloth; which, with God's blessing upon man's endeavor, in a little time stopped this gap in part, and

¹ Sav. Win. i. 206.—K.

soon after another door was opened by special Providence. For when one hand was shut by way of supply from England, another was opened by way of traffic, first to the West Indies and Wine Islands, whereby, among other goods, much cotton wool was brought into the country from the Indies; which the inhabitants learning to spin, and breeding of sheep, and by sowing of hemp and flax, they soon found out a way to supply themselves with many necessaries of linen and woollen cloth.

Thanks be to the Almighty the country was not driven to those straits to lay hold of the skirts of the next comer, for want of meat and clothing; for being so well furnished with the one, they soon found out a way, by the abundance thereof, to supply themselves with the other, which hath been the general way of the subsistence of the country ever since; and is like, by the blessing of Heaven, to continue, so long as the original grant of divine bounty continues, (which is the grand ||tenure|| whereby mankind do hold, in capite, of the supreme Head and Governor of the world) of multiplying the fish of the sea, and beasts on the earth, or fowl in the air, and the growing of the grass and fruits of the earth, for the food of man and beast, that their granaries may be full, their oxen strong to labor, and other creatures bring forth thousands in their streets.

CHAP. XXXIII.

Various occurrences in the Massachusetts, from the year 1636 to 1641.

News of the scarceness¹ of provision in New England being carried over the sea, in the end of the year ||¹1635,|| many ships laden therewith, were, by the special favor of God, early there the next year; most of them that came in the spring making their way over in five weeks time; though some, that could not be ready to set out till the middle of the summer, made it five and twenty before they reached their port; with whom were em-

|| tenor ||

|| ¹1634 ||

¹ See Sav. Win. i. 159, 161, 169, 182, 184-5, 388.—H.