

with the elders of the other churches, it was concluded, that seeing neither *clavis litigans*, nor *errans, ligat*, those that were without just cause cast out at Hingham, were received into the church of Weymouth, in the town next adjoining; and the matter so continued, through the stiffness of their minds, and their self-willed resolution; by which it is to be feared that many, who are called unto liberty, use it for an occasion to the flesh, and forget that golden rule of our Savior, and the precept of the Apostle, by love to serve one another.

CHAP. XLIX.¹*Memorable accidents in New England from 1641 to 1646.*

MARCH, 1641, one Swain, of Agamenticus, fell into despair, and being often heard to utter dreadful speeches against himself, and cry out that he was all on fire under the wrath of God, but would never discover any other heinous sin, but that, having gotten about £40 by his labor, &c., he went over into England and spent it in wicked company. After he had so continued awhile he hanged himself. One of his neighbors, J.² Baker, a member of the church of Boston, having gone away³ from the church in a disorderly manner, and fallen into drunkenness, was so awakened by this sight, that of his own accord he returned⁴ to the church, and made open confession of his sin, and manifested repentance to the satisfaction of the church; yet, not taking heed to himself, fell into gross distempers soon after, and at last died by the hand of justice, in London, upon a worse account.

In April, on a Lord's Day, the same year, two children were left at home alone, in the town of Concord, one in the cradle; the other having burned a cloth, and for fear his mother should see it, went to hide it in the hay stack near the house, the fire not being quite out, whereby the hay, house, and child in the cradle were burnt up.

About the same time, a woman⁵ at Boston, counted

¹ XLVIII in the MS.—H. ² John.—H. ³ Coffin (Hist. Newbury,) says he was dismissed from Boston church, Nov. 24, 1640.—H.

⁴ In April. Sav. Win. ii. 29.—H.

⁵ Probably the wife of Captain William Peirse.—H.

religious, some time a citizen of London, having brought with her a parcel of fine linen, of great value, which she set her heart too much upon, was at charge to have it washed, and curiously folded and pressed; but the very next night after, a negro maid, going late into the room where it stood, cast the snuff of her candle accidentally upon some of the linen, whereby it was all burnt to tinder before the morning, yet the house not burnt. It pleased God, by the loss of this, to take off her heart from all worldly comforts, and fit her for a greater affliction that soon after befell her, by the untimely death of her husband, slain at the Isle of Providence, as was intimated before.¹

June 21, 1641, a young man at Boston going to wash himself in a creek, said, jestingly, I will go and drown myself now, which fell out accordingly, for his feet sliding from under him, by the slipperiness of the earth, he fell in past his depth, and, having no skill to swim, was drowned, though company were at hand, and one in the water with him. It is bad jesting about matters of life and death.

About this time, three boys that had stole away from the Summer Islands, above two hundred leagues off, in a skiff, and having been eight weeks at sea, their boat was cast away upon a point of sand lying out at Long Island, and the persons saved by the Indians.

In November, 1641, one Archibald Thompson, of Marblehead, carrying dung on the Lord's Day to his land, in a canoe, it sunk down under him in the harbor, the weather being fair, and he was never heard of again.

November 19,² 1641, the Charles of Dartmouth, a ship of 400 tons, lying in the harbor, was wrecked in a storm, being forced from her anchors. They had unrigged their ship on the Lord's Day, to be new masted, though they were admonished not so to do.

This year, Mr. Stephen Batchelour, pastor of the church at Hampton, (having suffered much from the hands of the bishops, about the ceremonies,) when he was eighty years of age, was complained of for soliciting

¹ See page 378.—H. * Should probably be, 19th. See Sav. Win. ii. 44.—H.

the chastity of his neighbor's wife, though he had at that time a comely grave woman for his own wife. Being dealt withal for his offence, he denied it, (as he told the woman he would,) and complained to authority of the man and the woman, for slandering him ; yet was forced soon after, by the terror of his conscience, to confess it openly in the church, and for the scandal of the same, notwithstanding his confession, he was cast out of the church, and two years after, upon his repentance, he was released of his sentence. In this time his house, and near all his substance, was consumed by fire.

January, 1641, a shallop, with eight men, would go from Pascataqua, (though advised to the contrary,) on the Lord's Day, towards Pemaquid, but were by the northwest wind driven to sea, for fourteen days ; at the length they recovered Monhegin, and four of them in this time perished with the cold. The Bay before Boston was that year frozen over, from the 18th of January to February 21st, so as they passed over with horse and cart. About which time one Ward, of Salem, an honest young man, going to shew a traveller the safest way over the ice, fell in himself, though he had a pitchfork in his hand, and was presently carried §away§ with the tide under the ice and drowned. The traveller, going to help him, fell in with one leg, and so escaped. He brought all the letters that used to come by the fishing ships in those times to Pascataqua, which by that means were kept safe.

One Turner, of Charlestown, being fifty years of age, having led a loose and disordered life, his conscience being terrified by a sermon of Mr. Shepard's, he went and drowned himself on a Lord's day night, in a pit where there was not two feet water. He neither revealed the distress of his mind, nor carefully attended the ministry for comfort, by which he had been wounded.

About the same time, in the southern Colony,¹ a beast brought forth a creature in an human shape, which was observed to have a blemish in one eye, like as a loose fellow in the town had, on which account being suspected, he confessed, upon examination, and was executed.

April 14, 1642, eight or nine persons were cast away

¹ New Haven.—H.

in a vessel and drowned. They were noted to be loose fellows, that lived by trucking with the Indians.¹

1642. One Huet's wife, of Hingham, having been long in a sad melancholy distemper, near to frenzy, and having formerly, in the year 1637, attempted to drown her child, did now again take her child of three years old, and stripping it of ||the|| clothes, threw it into the creek, but it scrambling out of the water and mud, came to the mother, who took it another time and threw it so far into the creek, that it could not possibly get out, yet by §a§ good Providence a young man, that accidentally passed by, took it up. The mother conceived she had sinned the sin against the Holy Ghost. She was afterwards proceeded with by church ||²censure,|| and by that means was brought off from those satanical delusions, and, after the manifestations of repentance, was received into the church again, being brought to a sound mind.

June 8, 1642, one Nathaniel Briscoe, of Boston, counted sober and religious, yet carried out too much after the world, being asked over night to help his father in his necessity, (being poor, though very godly,) refused, but went early in the morning to help another man for wages, and was drowned before night out of a boat which he was loading with wood.

June 22, 1642, a windmill³ of Boston was smitten in a tempest of thunder and lightning. The upper sail yard shattered in many pieces, whereof some were carried a bowshot off. It struck into the mill, and wrung the axletree in pieces. The main standard, bound about with a great iron hoop, fastened with many spikes, was broken in pieces, the iron being thrown off; one of the main spars riven to the ground in three pieces; the boards rived off the sides, the sacks fired; the miller at work beneath the mill was smitten down, but came to himself the next day, but knew nothing of what had befallen him; within two hours after he was smitten he began to stir with such force that six men could hardly hold him; it was the next day before he came perfectly to his senses again.

|| isa ||

|| ² council ||

¹ This occurred, according to Winthrop, "last winter;" but his relation of the incident immediately following an occurrence of April 14th, Hubbard inadvertently refers the latter to the date of the former.—H.

² On Copp's Hill.—H.

About September, 1642, one Richard Silvester,¹ of Weymouth, he and his wife going to the assembly on the Lord's day, left three children at home. The eldest was abroad looking after the cattle; the second, about five years old, taking his father's fowling piece, laid it upon a block, and then pulled up the cock and let down the hammer and then went to blow in at the muzzle of the piece, as he had seen his father use to do, but the spring being weak gave way and fired the gun, which shot the child in at the mouth and through the head. The parents with astonishment and trembling came to understand it by the speech and signs given by the youngest, not above three years old.

Much hurt was done by fire this year.² Amongst others, about the 7th of November, 1642, one Briscoe, a rich tanner of Watertown, refused to let his neighbors have leather for corn, saying he had corn enough, soon after had his barn, leather, and corn burnt, to the value of £200.

In the beginning of the year 1643, the wife of one Onion, of Roxbury, died in great despair.³ While a servant she was stubborn and self-willed, and used to deny what she was guilty of, and when married proved very worldly; upon her first child, (that was still-born through her unruliness,) she fell into a fever, and withal into so great horror and trembling, shaking the very room where she was, || cried || out of her torment, and complaining of her stubbornness and worldliness, saying that she had neglected her spiritual good for a little worldly trash, and now must go into everlasting torments, exhorting others to be warned by her example to take heed of such evils, and being moved to lay hold on the mercy of God, she replied, I cannot for my life, and so died.

In the year 1643, a young fellow, servant to one Williams, of Dorchester, being out of service, fell to work for himself, and by his excessive wages, working only for ready money, in a little more than a year he had scraped together £25 in money, and then returned with his prey into England, speaking evil of the country by the

|| crying ||

¹ The same person mentioned on page 276.—H. ² In "drying flax," says Winthrop.—H. ³ "Mary, the wife of Robert Onion, buried, 4, (2) 1643." Roxbury Records, in Sav. Win. ii. 95.—H.

way. He was not gone far after his arrival before he met with some of the sons of Mars that eased him of his money; so, knowing no better way, he ||returned|| back to New England with more wit but less money than he carried out, hoping to repair his loss in the place which he had so much disparaged.

July 2, 1643, arrived here at Boston Mr. Carman, in a ship of 180 tons. He sailed from New Haven the December foregoing to the Canaries, and being earnestly commended to God's protection by the prayers of the church there, at the Isle of Palma he was set upon by a Turkish pirate of 300 tons and twenty-five pieces of ordnance and two hundred men. He fought with her three hours, having but twenty men and seven guns, (his muskets being all unserviceable by rust.) The Turk lay cross his hawser so as he was forced to shoot through his own vessel, yet by those shots killed many of the enemy. Then the Turk came and boarded him side by side, and poured an hundred of his men upon him at once, but Mr. Carman, by some lucky shot, broke the tiller and killed the Captain of the Turks, and forced them to fall off, leaving fifty of their men behind, who were either killed or forced to leap overboard into the sea. This fight was within sight of their port, whither they gat safe and were courteously entertained, and supplied with whatsoever they wanted, losing but one man in the fight.

July 23,¹ 1643, arrived at Boston Captain Chaddock² in a bark of 100 tons, belonging to the Earl of Warwick, from Trinidado. He came for people and provision, but the people of New England were now grown so wise, and encouraged by hope of trade appearing, that they refused all proffers for removing, which made the Captain alter his design, and went towards Canada, guarding home La Tour.

The father of this Chaddock had been Governor of Bermudas, from which, with his family and an hundred more, he removed to Trinidado, where the most of them died, with himself and wife. This Captain Chaddock, (not so well minded as his father,) as he returned to Boston, five of his men fell off the main yard, as they were hand-

|| hurried ||

¹ 13th, says Winthrop.—H.

² Baptismal name, John.—H.

ing the sail, and, notwithstanding it was smooth water, three of them were drowned, not having their boat out. The rest not being warned hereby, but falling to drinking and swearing, their pinnace (which they brought from the French) was soon after¹ blown up by the firing of two barrels of powder, whereby five more of the company were destroyed. The Captain said the day before, that New England were a base heathen people, and being contradicted therein by the master, he swore blood and wounds he would kill him; but he was prevented by the company, and fined £20 by the Court for quarrelling.

On the 18th of January that year there were strange sights seen about Castle Island and the Governor's Island over against it, in form like a man, that would sometimes cast flames and sparkles of fire. This was seen about eight of the clock in the evening by many. About the same time a voice was heard between Boston and Dorchester upon the water, in a dreadful manner, crying out, boy, boy, come away, come away; and then it shifted suddenly from one place to another a great distance about twenty times. About fourteen days after, the same voice was heard, in the like dreadful manner, (divers sober persons were earwitnesses hereof, at both times,) on the other side of the town, towards Noddle's Island.

These prodigies seemed to have reference to the place where Captain Chaddock's pinnace was blown up, and gave occasion of speech concerning one of the company, who professed himself to have skill in necromancy, and to have done some strange things in the way from Virginia hither, (and was suspected to have murdered his master there,) but the magistrates had no notice of him till after he was blown up. This is to be observed, that his fellows were all found, as were those that were blown up in the former ship or pinnace, and many others, who have miscarried by drowning, were usually found, but this man's body was never heard of again.

About January 2, 1643, Captain Patrick² was shot dead with a pistol by a Dutchman at Stamford. He was

¹ Jan. 2, 1643-4.—H.

² His baptismal name was Daniel.—H.

entertained in the Massachusetts, and brought out of Holland (having been one of the Prince's Guard there) to teach the people military discipline. He was made a freeman [and] admitted a member of the church of Wattertown, but being proud and otherwise vicious, he was left of God to a profligate life, which brought him at last to destruction by the hand of one of that people, from whom he sought protection, after he had fled from the yoke of Christ in the Massachusetts, the strictness of whose discipline he could neither bear in the church, nor yet in the country.

At the Court of Assistants, in the end of the year 1643,¹ James Britten² and Mary Latham were condemned to die for adultery, upon a law formerly made and published. J. Britten had been a professor in England, and went to New England on that account, but not approving their church government, became a great enemy thereunto, and so was given over unto dissoluteness, hating both the power and profession of godliness. At the last he grew so profane, that, in the evening after a day of humiliation, much company sitting up late in the night a drinking, he was seen upon the ground with this woman near the house, &c. But soon after, being smitten with the dead palsy, and followed with horror of conscience withal, he could not keep secret, but discovered this and other like practices with other women, and was forced to acknowledge the justice of God, in that, having oft called others fools for confessing against themselves, he was now forced to do the like himself.

The woman was young and handsome, religiously brought up. Being rejected by a young man she had an affection unto, or else hindered by her friends, [she] vowed to marry the next man that proffered her marriage, and made good her word to her shame and sorrow, matching herself, against the mind of all her friends, to an ancient fellow, whom she never affected, and one that was neither suitable to her temper, nor of ability to maintain her, which made her the more ready to despise and abuse him, and was easily drawn away by lewd persons, that prevailed with her to drink wine, and keep bad company,

¹ In March, 1643-4.—H.

² See page 276.—H.

amongst whom this Britten was one. She confessed the fact with him, and many others, having often abused her husband with words and deeds, and setting a knife to his breast, would threaten to kill him. When she came to die, she suffered very penitently, (as did the man,) exhorting young maids to be obedient to their parents, and take heed of evil company, which brought her to an untimely end in the very flower of youth, before she had attained to the twentieth year of her age.

In the year 1643, three fishermen, belonging to the Isles of Shoals, very profane and scorners of religion, being drinking all the Lord's Day, the boat was cast away the next week, and themselves all drowned.

In May, 1644, one Dalkin and his wife going home to Medford, or Mystick, after sermon on the Lord's Day, and passing over at a ford, where (the tide not being fallen enough for them comfortably to pass over) the woman was carried away with the stream, and crying out, her husband not daring to help her, the dog in the house near by came running out, and seeing something stir in the water, swam to it, so as she, catching hold of his tail, was thereby drawn to the shore, and saved her life.

In the latter end¹ of the year 1643, Thomas Morton, the old adversary of New England, and accuser of the brethren, being cast off by his friends in England, by whose help he expected means to be revenged of the country, returned thither again for shelter, not having else whither to betake himself; which in justice seemed to be so ordered by Providence, that his malicious practices being there publicly laid open, he might become a spectacle of shame and reproach to his dying day in that place, and amongst that people, whom he had so spitefully, and without cause, so much reproached. He could not lurk up and down there so privily but he was detected, soon after his arrival, and brought to the Court of Assistants in September, 1644, to answer for his former injuries and offences. He had prosecuted the country with a Quo Warranto² in the year 1634, or thereabouts, which he did not deny. He had charged them also with

¹ In December.—H.

² See pages 268 and 272.—H.

treason and rebellion, and published a book against them full of scoffs and invectives. And a letter¹ also was produced against him, written by his own hand to his old friend, Mr. Jefferies, 1634, which will give a full character of his disposition towards those of the Massachusetts, which letter here follows :

MY VERY GOOD GOSSIP,

If I should commend myself to you, you would reply with this proverb, *propria laus sordet in ore* ; but to leave impertinent salutes, and really proceed.—You shall hereby understand, that, although, when I was first sent to England to make complaint against Ananias and the brethren, I effected the business but superficially (through the brevity of time,) I have at this time taken [more²] deliberation, and brought the matter to a better pass. And it is thus brought about, that the King hath taken the matter into his own hands. The Massachusetts Patent, by an order of the Council, was brought in view ; the privileges therein granted well scanned upon, and at the Council Board in public, and in the presence of Sir Richard Saltonstall and the rest, it was declared (for manifold abuses therein discovered) to be void. The King hath reassumed the whole business into his own hands, appointed a committee of the board, and given order for a General Governor of the whole territory to be sent over. The commission is past the Privy Seal ; I did see it, and the same was, 1 mo. of May, sent to my Lord Keeper to have it pass the Great Seal for confirmation, and I now stay to return with the Governor, by whom all complainants shall have relief. So that now Jonas, being set ashore, may safely cry, repent, you cruel schismatics, repent, there are as yet but forty days. If Jove vouchsafe to thunder, the Charter and Kingdom of the Separatists will fall asunder. Repent, you cruel schismatics, repent. These things have happened, and I shall see, (notwithstanding their boasting and false alarums in the Massachusetts with forged cause of thanksgivings,) their merciless cruelty rewarded, according to the merit of the fact, with condign punishment for coming into those parts, like Samson's foxes, with firebrands at their tails.

¹ See page 169.—H.

² Supplied from Winthrop.—H.

The King and Council are really possessed of their posterous loyalty and irregular proceedings, and are incensed against them; and although they be so opposite to the Catholic axioms, yet they will be compelled to perform them, or at leastwise suffer them to be put in practice to their sorrow. In matter of restitution and satisfaction, more than mystically, it must be performed visibly, and in such sort as will be subject to the senses, in a very lively image. My Lord of Canterbury, with my Lord Privy Seal, having caused all Mr. Cradock's letters to be viewed, and his apology for the brethren particularly heard, protested against him and Mr. Humphreys, that they were a couple of imposterous knaves; so that, for all their great friends, they departed the Council-chamber in our view with a pair of cold shoulders. I have staid long, yet have not lost my labor, although the brethren have found their hopes frustrated; so that it follows by consequence that I shall see my desire upon mine enemies; and if Jo. Grant had not betaken himself to flight, I had taught him to sing *clumari* in the Fleet before this time; and if he return before I depart, he will pay dear for his presumption. For here he finds me a second Perseus; I have uncased Medusa's head, and struck the brethren into astonishment. They find, and yet will more to their shame, that they abuse the word, and are to blame to presume so much; that they are but a word and a blow to them that are without. Of these particulars I thought good, by so convenient a messenger, to give you notice, lest you should think I had died in obscurity, as the brethren vainly intended I should, and basely practised, abusing justice to their sinister practices, as by the whole body of the committee it was, *una voce*, concluded to be done, to the dishonor of his Majesty. And as for Ratcliff, he was comforted by their Lordships with the cropping of Mr. Winthrop's ears, which shews what opinion is held amongst them of K.¹ Winthrop, with all his inventions, and his Amsterdam fantastical ordinances, his preachings, marriages, and other abusive ceremonies, which do exemplify his detestation to the Church of England, and the contempt of

¹ King. Sav. Win. ii. 191.—R.

his Majesty's authority and wholesome laws, which are and will be established in those parts, *invita minerva*. With these I thought to salute you as a friend, by an epistle, because I am bound to love you as a brother by the Gospel, resting

Your loving friend,

THOMAS MORTON.¹

||Dat.|| 1 mo. ||²Maii,|| 1634.

Yet notwithstanding all these vain boastings of his, he lived to see all his hopes frustrate, and his great brags vanish into the air; for after all his vain attempts, he came back to New England without money or friends. He was kept in prison about a year, in expectation of evidence out of England, and then called before the Court again, and after some debate what to do with him, he was fined £100 and set at liberty; for having nothing, he would have been but a charge to have kept him longer under such restraint, and they did not think meet to inflict corporal punishment upon him, because of his age, being at this time both old, and laboring under many infirmities of body, but chose rather to give him his liberty, that he might procure his fine, or, at least, go out of the jurisdiction, as he did soon after, for he removed to Agamenticus, where he lived poor and despised, and died within two years after.

February 26, 1644, the country's ammunition, for greater security, was sent to Roxbury, and ordered to be lodged ||³in|| the house of J.² Johnson, the Surveyor General; but by some unknown accident the house was fired at noonday,³ and all that belonged to his dwelling-house was, together with the country's store of seventeen barrels of powder, destroyed by the said fire, none of the inhabitants daring to lend any helping hand to save their neighbor's goods, for fear of losing their own lives; and if the wind had not been favorable it might have endangered all the houses adjoining; but God doth often in judgment remember mercy.

Every one was ready to make their observations of

|| Dated ||

|| ² May ||

|| ³ at ||

¹ By comparing this letter with the version in Sav. Win. ii. 190-1, some slight variations will appear.—H. ² John.—H. ³ April 6, 1645.—H.

that accident, amongst which, as to the particular case, these seemed to be very obvious to wise men: First, There was not that due care taken to pay for it, which ought, the debt being of divers years standing. Secondly, The overruling party in the Court had denied a supply to some of their neighbors¹ not long before, in some distress, which is not according to our Savior's rule, who requires that he that hath two coats should give, or lend, to him that hath none. Thirdly, Some were apt to think it was a great oversight to place their powder and ammunition so far out of the centre of the country, (if any exigent should have fallen out that should have required a present supply of ammunition,) and more confidence, possibly, was put in the officer than he deserved to be trusted with such a charge, he having never really approved himself of more fidelity or ability than other men, to discharge the trust committed to him.

Much hurt was about the same time done by fire in other places, as at Mr. Downing's farm, at Salem. That which was most remarkable happened in the journey of some of Hingham towards Seakonk, to make preparation for a new Plantation there. The place was not long before concluded by the Commissioners to belong to Plymouth, yet was it granted to some of the Massachusetts, with their consent, for a Plantation. Mr. Peck,² and three others of said Hingham, were removing thither, and making their stage in an Indian wigwam by the way, by some occasion or other it took fire, and though they were four there present, and labored to the utmost to prevent the damage of the fire, yet were three of their horses consumed thereby, and the value of £50 in goods.

In the year 1645,³ the Swedes' fort at Delaware was burnt down, with all the buildings in it, and all their powder and goods blown up. It happened in the night, by the negligence of a servant, who fell asleep leaving a candle burning. At Hartford and at Hingham, also, were houses burnt down that year.

¹ In Plymouth, and also in Virginia. Sav. Win. ii. 211.—H.

² Mr. Joseph Peck died at Rehoboth, Dec. 23, 1663.—H.

³ In the winter, says Winthrop.—H.