

assembly, consulting how to put them off, but the Captain, not able with patience to wait any longer, carried his twenty soldiers to the door of the wigwam, where the Indians sat in consultation, and there leaving them, himself boldly entered in amongst them all, with his pistol in his hand, (as was said,) and taking hold of Pessacus's locks, drew him from the midst of his attendants, (some hundreds in number, and all armed,) telling him that he should go along with him, and if any of them stirred he would presently speed him. By this undaunted courage of Captain Atherton, Pessacus and all the other sachems were so affrighted, that they durst make no resistance, but presently paid down what was demanded, and so they were dismissed in safety.

Not long after, Ninicrite, another of their sachems, began to raise new troubles against the English amongst the Nianticks, but upon the sending Captain Davis¹ with a troop of horse into his quarters, he was struck with such a panic fear, that he scarce durst come to the speech of the English, till he was fully secured of his life, and then readily complied with their demands. Such was the terror of [the] English upon them in those times, till afterwards, by too much familiarity, they grew more emboldened, and ||adventured|| upon a war with them.

CHAP. LII.²

The Confederation of the United Colonies of New England; the grounds and reasons leading thereunto, with the Articles agreed upon, for that end.

Woe to him that is alone, saith Solomon. The people that came over to New England were necessitated to disperse themselves further, each from other, than they intended; yet finding that, in their first and weak beginnings, they might be exposed to danger by many enemies, and as well from the natives as any foreign nations, although that they saw they could not be accommodated within the bounds of one and the same Patent, yet judged it very expedient to be joined together in one common

|| ventured ||

¹ Probably the "Serjeant John Davies" who was sent, with Atherton, to the aid of Uncas, in 1645, and the same person whom Hazard calls "Serjeant John Dames," who went on a mission to Pessacus the same year. See Hazard, ii. 28, 30.—H.

² LI in the MS.—H.

bond of unity and peace, by as firm engagement as might be on either side. They saw also, by daily experience from the beginning, that without some such obligation, seeds of jealousy and difference might easily be sown between them, either about their bounds or other occasions; wherein all discovered an unwillingness to be subordinate one to another, yet could not be able to stand alone by themselves, without engagement of mutual assistance. For this end, some of the wisest in each division had been contriving some means of unity and accord, by a kind of Confederation; and some had drawn up articles in that way in the year 1638,¹ which were left to further consideration till after time. In the year 1639² the said Confederation was earnestly prosecuted by Mr. Haines and Mr. Hooker, who tarried several weeks in the Bay to solicit the matter; by whose means the said treaty of Confederation was again renewed, and commended to the consideration of the General Court in the Massachusetts, who did not unwillingly accept thereof. Those of Connecticut were especially concerned to be solicitous about it, because they had some reason to expect trouble from the Dutch, who had lately received a new Governor,³ one that was more discreet and sober than the former,⁴ and was very sensible and apprehensive of injury done to their people at Connecticut, and also very inquisitive how things stood between the Massachusetts and Connecticut; which made them the more ready to renew the former treaty, that the Dutch might not take notice of any breach or alienation between them. Yet, notwithstanding how seriously and strenuously this motion was driven on, by several occasions that interposed, it could not be brought to any desirable issue till afterwards, viz. in the year 1643, when Commissioners came from all the several Colonies to Boston, in the time of the General Court⁵ there assembled. Mr. Fenwick also, of Saybrook Fort, joined with them in carrying on the treaty. The General Court of the Massachusetts chose as Commissioners for their Colony, Mr. Winthrop, Mr. Dudley, and Mr. Bradstreet, from among the magistrates; Mr. Hathorne, Mr. Gibbons, and Mr. Ting, from amongst the deputies.

¹ See Sav. Win. i. 237, 284.—H.

² Kieft.—H.

⁴ Van Twiller.—H.

³ See Sav. Win. i. 299.—H.

⁵ I. e. in May.—H.

From Connecticut came Mr. Haines and Mr. Hopkins; from New Haven came Mr. Theophilus Eaton and Mr. Grigson; Mr. Winslow and Mr. Collier from Plymouth. These coming to consultation, encountered with many difficulties, before they could agree upon a good foundation wherein all might centre; but being all desirous of union and studious of peace, they readily yielded each to other, in such things as tended to the common good of the whole, so as after two or three meetings they lovingly accorded upon some Articles, which here follow, being allowed by the General Court of the Massachusetts, and signed by all the Commissioners, and sent also to be confirmed and ratified by the General Courts of the rest of the jurisdictions. Only Plymouth Commissioners having power to treat but not to determine, deferred the signing of them till they came home, &c., but soon after they were confirmed by their General Court also, as well as by all the rest.

Those of Sir Ferdinando Gorges's Province, beyond Pascataqua, were not received nor called into this confederation; because they ran a differing course from the rest, both in their ministry and their civil administrations. Nor indeed were they at that time furnished with inhabitants fit for such a purpose, for they had lately made Agamenticus (a poor village) a Corporation, and had made a mean person ||mayor|| thereof,^a and had also entertained a contentious person, and one under offence, for their minister.¹

Articles of Confederation between the Plantations under the government of the Massachusetts, New Plymouth, Connecticut, [and] New Haven, in New England, with the Plantations in combination with them.^a

Whereas we all came into these parts of America with one and the same end and aim, namely, to advance the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to enjoy the liberties of the Gospel in purity with peace; and whereas in our settling, (by the wise Providence of God,) we are further dispersed from the sea-coasts and rivers

[major]

¹ "One Hull" says Winthrop.—H.

^a These "Articles," with some variations, are to be found in Sav. Win. ii. 101-6, and Hazard, ii. 1-6.—H.

than was at the first intended, so that we cannot, according to our desire, with convenience communicate in one government and jurisdiction; and whereas we live encompassed with people of several nations and strange languages, which hereafter may prove injurious to us and our posterity; and forasmuch as the natives have [formerly¹] committed sundry insolencies and outrages upon several Plantations of the English, and have of late combined themselves against us; and seeing, by reason of the sad distractions in England, (which they have heard of, or by which they know,) we are hindered, both from the humble way of seeking advice, and reaping those comfortable fruits of protection, which at other times we might well expect; we therefore do conceive it our bounden duty, without delay, to enter into a present Consociation amongst ourselves, for mutual help and strength in all future concernments; that, as in nation and religion,² so in other respects, we be and continue one, according to the tenor and true meaning of the ensuing Articles.

1. Wherefore it is fully agreed and concluded, [by and³] between the parties and jurisdictions above named, and they jointly and severally do, by these presents, agree and conclude that they all be, and henceforth be called by the name of, The United Colonies of New England.

2. The said United Colonies, for themselves and their posterities, do jointly and severally hereby enter into a firm and perpetual league of friendship and amity, for offence and defence, mutual advice, and succor upon all just occasions, both for preserving and propagating the truths and liberties of the Gospel, and for their own mutual safety and welfare.

3. It is further agreed, that the Plantations which at present are, or hereafter shall be, settled within the limits of the Massachusetts, shall be forever under the government of the Massachusetts, and shall have peculiar jurisdiction amongst themselves, in all cases, as \S an \S entire body; and that Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven, shall each of them, in all respects, have \S like \S peculiar jurisdiction and government within their limits, and in

¹ Supplied from Hazard and Winthrop.—H. ² Substituted for *relation* in the MS., on the authority of Hazard, Winthrop, and Common Sense.—H.

³ Supplied from Hazard, ii. 2.—H.

reference to the Plantations which are already settled, or shall hereafter be erected, and shall settle within any of their limits respectively ; provided that no other jurisdiction shall [hereafter¹] be taken in as a distinct head or member of this Confederation, nor shall any other, either Plantation or jurisdiction in present being, and not already in Combination, or under the jurisdiction of any of their Confederates, be received by any of them, nor shall any two of these Confederates join in one jurisdiction, without consent of the rest, which consent to be interpreted as in the sixth ensuing Article is expressed.

4. It is also by these Confederates agreed, that the charge of all just wars, whether offensive or defensive, (upon what part or member of this Confederation soever they shall fall,) shall, both in men and provisions and all other disbursements, be borne by all the parts of this Confederation in different proportions, according to their different abilities, in manner following, viz. That the commissioners for each jurisdiction, from time to time, as there shall be occasion, bring [a true²] account and number of all the males in each Plantation, or any way belonging to or under their several jurisdictions, of what quality or condition soever they be, from sixteen years old to sixty, being inhabitants there ; and that, according to the different numbers which, from time to time, shall be found in each jurisdiction, upon a true and just account, the service of men, and all charges of the war, be borne by the poll ; each jurisdiction or Plantation being left to their own just course or custom of rating themselves and people, according to their different estates, with due respect to their qualities and exemptions among themselves ; though the Confederates take no notice of any such privilege ; and that, according to the different charge of each jurisdiction and Plantation, the whole advantage of the war, (if it please God so to bless their endeavors,) whether it be in land, goods, or persons, shall be proportionably divided amongst the said Confederates.

5. It is further agreed, that if any of these jurisdictions, or any Plantation under or in combination with

[pleased]

¹ Supplied from Hazard and Winthrop.—H.

² Supplied from Hazard.—H.

them, be invaded by any enemy whatsoever, upon notice and request of any three magistrates of that jurisdiction so invaded, the rest of the Confederates, without any further notice or expostulation, shall forthwith send aid to [the¹] Confederates in danger, but in different proportions, viz. the Massachusetts an hundred men sufficiently armed and provided for such a service and journey, and each of the rest forty-five men so armed and provided, or any less number, if less be required, according to this proportion. But if such a Confederate in danger may be supplied by their next Confederate, not exceeding the number hereby agreed, they may crave help thence, and seek no further for the present; the charge to be borne as in this article is expressed, but at their return to be victualled and supplied with powder and shot, (if there be need,) for their journey, by that jurisdiction which employed or sent for them. But none of the jurisdictions to exceed those numbers, till, by a meeting of the Commissioners for this Confederation, a greater aid appear necessary; and this proportion to continue till, upon knowledge of the numbers in each jurisdiction, which shall be brought to the next meeting, some other proportion be ordered; but in any such case of sending men for present aid, (whether before or after such order or alteration,) it is agreed that, at the meeting of the Commissioners for this Confederation, the cause of such war or invasion be duly considered, and if it appear that the fault lay in the party [so²] invaded, that then the jurisdiction or Plantation make just satisfaction, both to the invaders, whom they have injured, and bear all the charge of the war themselves, without requiring any allowance from the rest of the Confederates towards the same. And further, that if any jurisdiction see [any¹] danger of an invasion approaching, and there be time for a meeting, that in such case three magistrates of that jurisdiction may summon a meeting at such convenient place as themselves [shall¹] think meet, to consider and provide against the threatened danger; provided, when they are met, they may remove to what place they please; only when any of these four Con-

¹ Supplied from Hazard and Winthrop.—H.

² Supplied from Hazard.—H.

federates have but three magistrates in their jurisdiction, a request or summons from any two of them shall be accounted of equal force with the three mentioned in both the clauses of this article, till there be an increase of magistrates there.

6. It is also agreed and concluded, that, for the managing of all affairs proper to and concerning the whole Confederation, two Commissioners shall be chosen by and out of each of ||these|| [four¹] jurisdictions, viz. two for the Massachusetts, and so for the other three, (all in church fellowship with us,) which shall bring full power from their several General Courts respectively, to hear and examine, weigh and determine, all affairs of war or peace, leagues, aid, charges, [and¹] numbers of men of war, division of spoils, or whatsoever is gotten by conquest, receiving of more Confederates or Plantations into combination with any of these Confederates, and all things of like nature which are the proper concomitants and consequents of such a Confederation, for amity, offence, and defence, not intermeddling with the government of any of the jurisdictions, which by the 3d article is preserved entirely by them. But if these eight Commissioners, when they meet, shall not agree, yet it is concluded that any six of the eight agreeing, shall have power to determine and settle the business in question; but if six do not agree, that then such propositions, with their reasons, (so far as they have been debated,) be sent and referred to the four General Courts, viz. the Massachusetts, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven, and if at all the said General Courts the business so referred be concluded, then to be prosecuted by the Confederates and all their members. It is further agreed, that these eight Commissioners shall meet [once¹] every year, (besides extraordinary meetings, according to the 5th article,) to consider, treat, and conclude of all affairs belonging to this Confederation, which meeting shall ever be the first Tuesday² in September, and that the next meeting after the date of these presents, (which shall be accounted the second meeting,) shall be at Boston, in the Massachusetts, the third at Hartford, the

| those |

¹ Supplied from Hazard and Winthrop.—H. ² A mistake; it should be Thursday. See Sav. Win. ii. 104; Hazard, ii. 4.—H.

fourth at New Haven, the fifth at Plymouth, the sixth and seventh at Boston, and then at Hartford, New Haven, and Plymouth, and so in course successively, if, in the mean time, some middle place be not found out and agreed upon, which may be commodious for all the jurisdictions.

7. It is further agreed, that at each meeting of these eight Commissioners, (whether ordinary or extraordinary,) they all, or any six of them, agreeing as before, may choose their President out of themselves, whose office and work shall be to take care and direct for order and a comely carrying on of all proceedings in their present meeting; but he shall be invested with no such power or respect, as by which he shall hinder the propounding or progress of any business, or any way cast the scales otherwise than in the preceding article is agreed.

8. It is also agreed, that the Commissioners for this Confederation hereafter, at their meetings, (whether ordinary or extraordinary,) as they may have commission or opportunity, do endeavor to frame and establish agreements and orders in general cases of a civil nature, wherein all the Plantations are interested for preserving peace among themselves, and preventing, (as much as may be,) all occasions of war or differences with others, as about [the¹] free and speedy passage of justice in each jurisdiction to all the Confederates equally as to their own, receiving those that remove from one Plantation to another without due certificates, how all the jurisdictions may carry it towards the Indians, that they neither grow insolent, nor be injured without due satisfaction, lest war break in upon the Confederates through [such¹] miscarriages. It is also agreed, that if any servant run away from his master into any [other¹] of the Confederate jurisdictions, that in such case, (upon certificate from one magistrate in the jurisdiction out of which the said servant fled, or upon other due proof,) the said servant shall be either delivered to his master, or any other that pursues and brings such certificate and proof. And that upon the escape of any prisoner [whatsoever¹] or fugitive

¹ Supplied from Hazard, ii. 5.—H.

for any criminal cause, whether breaking prison, or getting from the officer, or otherwise escaping, upon the certificate of two magistrates of the jurisdiction out of which the escape is made, that he was a prisoner or such an offender at the time of the escape, the magistrate, or some of them of that jurisdiction, where for the present the said prisoner or fugitive abideth, shall forthwith grant such a warrant as the case will bear, for the apprehending of any such person and the delivery of him into the hand of the officer or other person who pursueth him; and if there be help required for the safe returning of any such offender, then it shall be granted unto him that craves the same, he paying the charges thereof.

9. And for that the justest wars may be of dangerous consequence, (especially to the smaller Plantations in these United Colonies,) it is agreed, that neither the Massachusetts, Plymouth, Connecticut, nor New Haven, nor any of the members of any of them, shall at any time hereafter begin, undertake, or engage themselves or this Confederation, or any part thereof, in any war whatsoever, (sudden exigencies, with the necessary consequences thereof, excepted, which are also to be moderated as much as the case will permit,) without the consent and agreement of the forenamed eight Commissioners, or at least six of them, as in the sixth article is provided; and that no charge be required of any of the Confederates, in case of a defensive war, till the said Commissioners have met and approved the justice of the war, and have agreed upon the sums of money to be levied, which sum is then to be paid by the several Confederates in proportion, according to the fourth article.

10. That in extraordinary occasions, when meetings are summoned by three magistrates of any jurisdiction, or two, as in the fifth article, if any of the Commissioners come not, (due warning being given or sent,) it is agreed that four of the Commissioners shall have power to direct a war which cannot be delayed, and to send for due proportions of men out of each jurisdiction, as well as six might have done, if all had met; but not less than six

shall determine the justice of [the¹] war, or allow the demands or bills of charges, or cause any levies to be made for the same.

11. It is further agreed, that if any of the Confederates shall hereafter break any of these present Articles, or be [any²] other way injurious to any [one¹] of the other jurisdictions, such breach of agreement or injury shall be duly considered and ordered by the Commissioners of the other jurisdictions, that both peace, and this present Confederation, may be entirely preserved without violation.

12. Lastly, this perpetual Confederation, and the several Articles and Agreements thereof, being read and seriously considered, both by the General Court for the Massachusetts, and the Commissioners for the other three, were subscribed presently by the Commissioners, (all save those of Plymouth, who, for want of sufficient commission from their General Court, deferred their subscription till the next meeting, and then they subscribed also,) and were to be allowed by the General Courts of the several jurisdictions, which accordingly was done, and certified at the next meeting, held at Boston, Sept. 7, 1643.

Boston, May 29th,³ 1643.

CHAP. LIII.⁴

Ships seized in the harbors of the Massachusetts, by pretended Commissions of the Admiralty in England, in the year 1644.

ABOUT July, in the year 1644, one Captain Stagg arriving at Boston, in a London ship of twenty-four pieces of ordnance, and finding there a ship of Bristol, of one hundred ton, laden with fish for Bilboa, he made no speech of any Commission he had, but having put ashore a good part of his lading, (which was in wine, from Teneriffe,) suddenly weighed anchor, and with a sea-turn gale, sailed from before Boston to Charlestown, and placed his ship between the town and the Bristol ship, and moored himself aboard⁵ her. Then he called the master of the Bris-

¹ Supplied from Hazard and Winthrop.—H. ² Supplied from Hazard.—H.

³ It should be May 19th. See Sav. Win. ii. 106.—H.

⁴ LII in the MS.—H. ⁵ Should probably be *abreast*.—H.