

open air, and feed upon such fruits and wild creatures as the island afforded. But finding their strength to decay, and life not likely to hold out therewith, Captain Sayle made a shallop out of the wreck with which he went to Virginia, and would have persuaded the church there to have removed to Eleutheria, but they being orthodox and zealous for the truth, as their friends could not advise, so neither were themselves forward, to accept of the motion. Mr. Harrison tarried a year or two in New England, and then went to England, and at last settled in Ireland, having taken the degree of a Doctor; but what became of the Church of Virginia or the planters of Eleutheria, there was no certain report, but it is to be feared they were so nipped in the bud, they never flourished much afterwards.¹

CHAP. LVII.²

Memorable accidents in New England, from the year 1646 to 1651.

THE people of New England at this time began to flourish much in building of ships and trafficking abroad, and had prospered very well in those affairs, and possibly began too soon to seek great things for themselves; however, that they might not be exalted overmuch in things of that nature, many afflictive dispensations were ordered to them in this lustre, which proved a day of great rebuke to New England; for the first news they heard from Europe, in the year 1646, was the doleful report of two of their ships that were wrecked the winter before upon the coast of Spain, one of which was built in the country the former year by Captain Hawkins, a shipwright of London, who had lived divers years in the country before, and had, with others, been encouraged to fall upon such dealing as he had formerly been acquainted with. At the last, he had built a stately ship at Boston, of four hundred tons and upward, and had set her out with great ornament of carving and painting, and with much strength of ordnance. The first time she was rigged out for the sea, was on the 23d of November, 1645, when they set sail for Malaga, with another ship in her company, whereof

¹ See Johnson's New England, pp. 227-30.—H. ² LVI in the MS.—H.

Mr. Karman¹ was master. Captain Hawkins's ship had many passengers, who chose rather to sail in her, though so far about, (because of her strength,) rather than to adventure in lesser vessels that went directly for England. Divers of them that were in her, also, had been masters of ships themselves. But many times, according to the old proverb, the more cooks the worse broth, and the more masters the worse mariners; for when they came upon the coast of Spain, one evening, the weather fair and a full gale, some of the company deemed they saw land, or at least thought they heard the rut of the shore; but the more aged seamen, whose reckoning was not up, were loath to lose any of the fresh gale, and therefore made all the sail they could that night, hoping that if the wind stood all the next day, they might discern the land before the next; but they were presently upon the very shore before they were aware, and both ships, three hours before day that night,² struck aground, and soon after broke a pieces. The Spaniards in the morning thought they were mazed, not being able to see the lights in the Castle at Cadiz; but it was hidden from them, for they generally took them to be the lights in some ships, which they seemed to have discerned the day before, and not knowing but they might be enemies, prepared to fight against the morning.

Nineteen of the company were drowned, amongst whom was one Mr. Coytmore,³ an expert seaman, and Mr. Karman, the master of the other vessel. Time and chance happeneth to all men. The most likely means are often disappointed. Amongst them that were lost, was one Pratt⁴ and his wife, that had lived divers years in New England in much discontent, and went now to provide better for himself in his old age, fearing he might come to want afterward; but now he wanted nothing but a grave, being buried in the rude waters amongst others that needed not to have gone so long a voyage to have hastened their death, which lies in wait to meet the sons of men in every turning of their lives. Their ships grounded two or three miles off the shore, but divine Providence so ordering, they were heaved by the seas

¹ Kerman, says Winthrop.—H. ² Dec. 27th. Winthrop and Farmer.—H.

³ Thomas Coytmore, of Charlestown. His widow became the fourth wife of Gov. Winthrop.—H.

near the dry land before their ships fell quite a pieces. In the morning the common people of Cadiz Island came upon them, and pillaged the passengers of some goods which more merciful waves had suffered them to save; but those of the City did entertain the poor passengers, stript of all, with much kindness, and an English ship in the harbor clothed many of them, and took in as many passengers as his ship could stow, for which a full reward was wished might be given unto them. The Governor of the Island gave the Captain £500 for the wreck of his ship, which was some encouragement for him to begin his hopes anew.¹ But God was pleased to cross him again in the same kind and place the next year; for going for London he found much favor with his creditors and other friends, so as they employed him again for Malaga the next spring, but then, being just come out of the Strait's mouth, they were taken with such a violent tempest as drave his ship and three or four more upon the same place where he was wrecked the former year.² No man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them in this life, when all things come alike to all, and the same events oftentimes happen to the righteous which do to the wicked, that we may learn not to trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth the sons of men richly all things to enjoy.

Another ship, built at Cambridge, in New England, and sailing for the Canaries in the year 1645,³ was set upon by an Irish man-of-war, which had seventy men and twenty pieces of ordnance; the New England ship had but fourteen pieces and about thirty men. They were grappled and boarded, and forced to fight side by side near a whole day; but a shot taking in the steerage of the Irishman, they could not bring her to any more, by which accident they escaped their hands, notwithstanding they had received one shot between wind and water, which had much endangered them, but that God preserved them, so as they got off clear, and lost but two men in the fight, yet was damnified in her merchandise between £200 and £300.

¹ This whole account of Hawkins's disaster is placed by Hubbard one year too late. The news of the shipwreck was received in the spring of 1645. Hawkins sailed from Boston Nov. 23, 1644, and was cast away in December.—H. ² "This," says Winthrop, "was 2 (12) 45."—H.

³ Probably should be 1644. Sav. Win. ii. 219.—H.

Another deplorable loss befell New England the same year, wherein New Haven was principally concerned, and the southern parts of the country; for the inhabitants of that town, being Londoners, were very desirous to fall into a way of traffic, in which they were better skilled than in matters of husbandry; and to that end had built a ship of one hundred tons, which they freighted for London, intending thereby to lay some foundation of a future trade; but either by the ill form of her building, or by the shifting of her lading, (which was wheat, which is apt to shift its place in storms,) the vessel miscarried, and in her seventy persons, some of whom were of the principal part of the inhabitants, with all the wealth they could gather together. The loss of persons and goods was sadly bewailed by all that Colony, it being attended with so many solemn circumstances that they were all at a loss to know how to understand the mind of God therein, but were forced after all to acquiesce in the sovereignty and wisdom of the Almighty, who worketh all things according to the counsel of his own will, and rendereth to none account of his ways. God can make contentment with poverty greater gain to his people than riches and wealth without his presence and blessing.¹

One Captain Cromwell, in the year 1646, (about ten years before he had been a common seaman in the Massachusetts,) having been out with one Captain Jackson, upon a privateering design, (or in King James's phrase, committing of a *splendidum furtum*,) with a Commission from the Earl of Warwick, and having a Commission of Deputation from that Captain, had taken four or five Spanish vessels, and in some of them great riches, and intending for New England to empty himself there when he was full, where he had been supplied when he was empty, was by strange Providence driven into Plymouth, where they tarried about fourteen days, and had opportunity with the Psalmist, (if with the same spirit) to disperse and give liberally to the poor; for that sort of men are observed to spend as freely and lightly as they get. It fell out while they were there, that a drunken fellow² (who had been in continual quarrels all the voyage,) drew his rapier upon the Captain, when he was reproved by him

¹ See pages 391-9; Sav. Win. ii. 375, 398-9.—H.

² Winthrop calls him "one Voysye."—H.

two or three times, but at the last the Captain struck him on the forehead with the hilt of his sword, which made a small wound, but he refusing to have it searched and dressed that day, died of it, or of his drinking, the next after; whereupon Captain Cromwell was tried by a council of war, (such as could be gathered together at Plymouth,) and was acquitted, though the coroner's jury found that he died of ||his|| wound, for they saw that by his Commission he had power of martial law. Thus God oftentimes doth justly order, that he that takes the sword shall perish by the sword.

This Captain Cromwell coming to Boston¹ with his three vessels, and his Spanish wealth, might have been entertained in the best house of Boston, but was of so noble a disposition that, having in his mean estate been entertained by a poor man in a thatched house, when others were not so free to have done it, he said he would not now leave him, when he might do him good, and therefore always took up his quarters in the same place, and where he at last ended his days,² after some following voyages of like nature. It was said of this Cromwell, that he was, like Cæsar, *Cæsus ex utero materno*, and that he never saw either father or mother, or they him; and it is like the Spaniards in the West Indies wished they had never seen him neither.

In the end of September, 1646, one William Waldron, a member of the church of Dover, (received into the church in the corrupt beginning of it,) a man given to drunkenness and contention, for which he was after cast out, and upon some formal repentance taken in again, coming alone from Saco, where he undertook the office of a Recorder, was drowned as he passed over a small river called Kennebunk, but his body not found till about a month after. Those that through intemperance are wont to drown themselves in wine, are too often, through imprudence, drowned at last in water.

In the same year one Mary Martin fell into a sad miscarriage, whereby she brought herself to a violent and untimely death. Her father had been a merchant of old Plymouth, and her grandfather had been Mayor of that

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¹ June 4, 1646.—H.

² In 1649, says Farmer.—H.

town. The father, being fallen in his estate, came into Casco Bay, in New England, and after some time having occasion to return back to England, left behind him two daughters, comely maidens, and of modest behavior for aught appeared; but not taking that course for their bestowing in his absence, as the care and wisdom of a father should have done, the eldest was left in the house of one Mr. Mitton, a married man, who was soon so captivated with her person and behavior, that he attempted her chastity, which she, not having such strength of virtue to resist as she should, yielded unto, though with much reluctancy of spirit, and, as it was reported, begged of God to be delivered from the temptation, and if ever she were overtaken again, would leave herself to his justice to be made a public example, as indeed it came to pass, for not taking heed to herself, nor minding her promise, she was overtaken the third time with the same sin. But afterwards going into service at Boston and finding herself to have conceived, she was not able to bear the shame of the discovery, (being in so much favor with her mistress also, that she would not allow of the least suspicion herself or suggestion of the fear of it from others,) so as she wholly concealed it till the time of her delivery, when she was alone by herself in a dark room, and used violence to destroy the child she had brought forth, a first and a second time before she effected it, and then wrapt it up in her chest for fifteen days, till her master and mistress went on ship board, being bound for England, on which occasion she was put to remove to another house, where she was charged by some that had suspected her before, and now found she had been delivered of a child. She at first denied the fact of murdering it, and said it was stillborn, but upon search it was found in her chest, and being made to touch the face of it before the jury, the blood came fresh thereinto, whereupon she confessed the whole truth. She carried it very penitently in prison, and at the time of her suffering, which gave hopes to the standers-by of the truth of her repentance, justifying God from the first time of her falling into the sin till the last time of her suffering; and

it was very observable, that as she § had § confessed she had twice attempted to murder her child before she could effect it, so through the unskilfulness of the executioner, they were forced to turn her off the ladder twice before she could die. Thus the foolishness of the sons and daughters of men makes them choose sin rather than shame, till at last they are covered with shame for their sin. The way of sin is a dangerous path, and the further any pass on therein, the more unable they are to return therefrom, till they descend down to the chambers of death in the pursuit thereof.

In the depth of winter, in the year 1647, in a very tempestuous night, the Fort of Saybrook fell on fire, none knows how, whereby all the buildings within the pallisado were burnt down, with the goods, so as Captain Mason, with his wife and child, could hardly escape. The loss was esteemed at a £1,000, and better. Where the iron is blunt we must use the more strength, and where the matter is so combustible as their dwellings are in New England, we must use the more care to preserve them.

In June, 1648, one Margaret Jones, of Charlestown, was indicted for a witch, and executed¹ for it. She was proved to have such a malignant touch that whomsoever she touched (man, woman, or child,) with any affection of displeasure, were taken presently with deafness, vomiting, or other violent pains or sickness. Soon after she was executed, a ship riding over against Charlestown, of three hundred tons, having in her hold an hundred and twenty tons of ballast, and eighty horses aboard her for the Barbadoes, was on ||the|| sudden observed to roll, as if she would have turned over. The husband of that witch, lately executed, had desired passage in that ship to Barbadoes, which not obtaining, that accident was observed to follow. Notice being given of this to the magistrates then sitting in Court at Boston, a warrant was sent to apprehend him, and as the officer was passing therewith over the ferry, one asked if he could not tame the vessel, seeing he could sometimes tame men; he answered, I have that here which, it may be, will tame her and make

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¹ On June 15th.—R.

her quiet, shewing his warrant, and at the same instant the ship began to stop her motion and swim upright, which had continued rolling after a strange manner about twelve hours, and after Jones was in prison she never moved in that kind any more.

The 11th of January, 1648, an idle fellow that used to go home drunken from Boston to Winnisemet, was often told he would be drowned at last; and that night, passing over the water in a tempestuous time, when he was far in drink, perished in the water by the way. Another that had been aboard ship late on the Saturday night to make merry, and detained over long by the seamen's invitation, the boat turning over upon the ice, he was drowned by the shore, though three seamen waded out. He that was drowned was noted to be of good conversation, and commendable in religion, but only drawn away by idle company. God will be sanctified of all them that draw near unto him.

Two young persons were drowned about that time in a sad manner, one, a boy of about seven years old, ran down upon the ice towards a boat he saw there with a staff in his hand, but the ice breaking under him the staff kept him up till his sister, of about fourteen years of age, ran down to save her brother, though there were four men at hand, that called to her not to go, being themselves hastening to save him; but she not considering, ran hastily towards the same place, and so drowned both herself and him, being past recovery ere the men could come at him, who might have reached ground with their feet. The parents had no more sons, which made them set their hearts too much upon him, and by their indulgence, as was feared, came to lose him on the sudden. Four more were drowned that winter by adventuring upon the ice. Outward comforts are but crutches, which, when we lean too much upon, God suffers them many times to fail, that we may stay upon himself. It is but just the cisterns should either be broken or dried up, when we forsake the Fountain to depend upon them.

In the year 1647 an epidemical sickness passed through the whole country of New England, both among

Indians, English, French, and Dutch. It began with a cold, and in many was accompanied with a light fever. Such as bled, or used cooling drinks, generally died; such as made use of cordials, and more strengthening, comfortable things, for the most part recovered.

It seems to have spread through the whole coast, at least all the English Plantations in America, for in the Island of Christophers and Barbadoes there died five or six thousand in each of them. Whether it might be called a plague or pestilential fever, physicians must determine. It was accompanied in those islands with a great drought, which burnt up all their potatoes and other fruits, which brought the provisions of New England into great request with them, who before that time had looked upon New England as one of the poorest, most despicable, barren parts of America.¹

In October, 1648, some shallops of Ipswich, having been fishing all the summer at Monhiggin, in their way home were intended to put in at Damarill's Cove on a Saturday night, and three of them gat safe into the harbor's mouth before sun-down. They in the fourth shallop were not willing to put forth their oars till it was very late in the afternoon, when they were becalmed, and so it was dark night before they could reach the harbor, the entrance of which they missed, and by that means were overraked by the surf of the sea and all drowned, four Englishmen and one Indian, and the goods all perished. Their friends called to them to make haste; but the sluggard is wiser in his own eyes, than seven men that can render a reason.

CHAP. LVIII.²

Ecclesiastical affairs in New England, from the year 1646 to 1651.

THE churches in New England had now for some considerable time enjoyed rest and peace, and having had liberty, without adversary or evil occurrent, to model

¹ There is a slight confusion here. According to Winthrop the drought preceded the pestilence.—H. ² LVII in the MS.—H.