

CHAP. LXII.¹

Special occurrences during this lustre, from 1651 to 1656.

WITHIN the compass of this lustre was the Massachusetts deprived of two eminent and worthy persons, the one in the magistracy, the other in the ministry, which loss was the more to be lamented, in that they left neither of them any one in each of their capacities, equal with themselves.

Mr. Dudley, an ancient gentleman, one of the principal founders and pillars of the Massachusetts Colony, was called from his station, July 31, 1653, in the 77th year of his age, eminently qualified with those choice virtues, fit for the discharge of the trust to which he was oft called, and wherein he always approved himself a lover of justice, and friend of truth, an enemy of all disorder, and that always bore a special antipathy against all heresy and corrupt doctrine, which made him conclude his own epitaph with this character of himself, "I died no libertine," and which gave occasion to a reverend person of the clergy to honor him with this double encomium, as well of English as Latin poesy :

THOMAS DUDLEY,

HOLD, MAST, WE DY.

When swelling gusts of Antinomian breath
Had well nigh wreck'd this little bark to death,
When oars 'gan crack, and anchors, then we cry,
Hold firm, brave mast, thy stand, or else we die.
Our orth'dox mast did hold, we did not die ;
Our mast now roll'd by th' board, (poor bark) we cry,
Courage, our pilot lives, who stills the waves,
*And*² midst the surges still his bark he saves.

EPITAPHIUM.

Heluo librorum, lectorum bibliotheca
Communis, Sacræ syllabus Historiæ,
Ad mensam comes, hinc facundus, rostra disertus,
Non cumulus verbis, pondus acumen erat,

¹ LXI in the MS.—H. ² Conjectural ; the MS. has *o're*, evidently a blunder of the transcriber, which was printed *or* in the first edition. The word in the *original* may have been *for* or *and* ; probably it was the latter.—H.

Morum acris censor, validus defensor amansque,
 Et sanæ, et canæ, Catholicæ fidei.
 Angli-Novi columen, summum decus, atque senatus,
 Thomas Dudleius conditur hoc tumulo.

N. R.¹

He was the most resolved champion of the truth, above all the gentlemen in the country, in the years 1636 and 1637, at which time was New England's crisis, when many, under pretence of crying up the free grace of God in the work of man's salvation, had well nigh cashiered all the grace of God out of their hearts, endeavoring to vilify the grace of sanctification, that thereby they might exalt the grace of justification.

On the 23d of December, 1652, that reverend and holy man of God, Mr. John Cotton, put off this his earthly tabernacle, being entered into the 68th year of his age. His excellent learning, profound judgment, eminent gravity, Christian candor, and sweet temper of spirit, whereby he could very placidly bear those that differed from him in their apprehensions, made him most desired while he was amongst them, and the more lamented after he was removed hence. So equal a contention between learning and meekness, magnanimity and humility, is seldom seen in any one person, and therefore did his worthy successor^a not unfitly, in writing his life, give him that encomium, which the German Phoenix gave unto Luther, "I," (saith he, speaking of himself,) "am a Logician, ||Pomeranus|| is a Grammarian, Justus Jonas is an Orator, but Luther is all." He was a famous light in his generation, a glory to both Englands; one in whom was so much of what is desirable in man, as the consciences of all that knew him appealed unto, is rarely to be seen in any one conversant upon the earth. And as concerning any tenet, wherein he may be thought to be singular, it must be remembered, that although he was a star of the first magnitude, yet he was on this side of that place and state where the spirits of just men are made perfect, and when the "wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament." He that wrote his life, saith, that might he but have received with some proportion to the

|| Pomeranus ||

¹ Conjecture would ascribe these initials to Rev. Nathaniel Rogers, though in the *Magnalia* the Latin verses are signed "E. R."—H.

^a Rev. John Norton.—H.

measure which he gave to others, he would be found no debtor to any man upon earth on that account. The Jews unto their own question, "why Asa and Jehoshaphat, removing the idols in the high places, took not also away the brazen serpent," give this answer: "the fathers left a place for Hezekiah to exercise his zeal."

In the year 1655 was another general faint cough that passed through the whole country of New England, occasioned by some strange distemper or infection of the air; it was so epidemical, that few persons escaped a touch thereof. It began about the end of June, and was so epidemical, that few were able to visit their friends, or perform the last testimony of respect to any of their relations at any distance. By which on July the 2d,¹ in the year 1655, was put a period to the life and labors of that reverend, learned, holy, and worthy minister of the Gospel, Mr. Nathaniel Rogers, pastor of the church at Ipswich, to whom it might be honor enough to say, that he was the son of Mr. John Rogers, the famous preacher of Dedham, of whom it might be affirmed, that he was the only Boanerges of his age, as the reverend and learned Bishop Brownrigg was not unwilling to own. But this his son, treading in his father's steps, was, though not his eldest son, yet heir of a double portion of his spirit, and worthy to have transmitted more honor to his posterity than he received from those before him, by reason of his eminent learning, singular piety, holy zeal, with other ministerial abilities. But being always burdened with many bodily infirmities, he was never able to polish any of his elucubrations to render them fit for the public, so as thereby the church of God was deprived of his elaborate studies, further than his auditory reached, who were his epistle, as the Apostle speaketh, seen and read of all that knew them. And indeed the ministry of himself, together with that of his worthy colleague,² had such authority in the hearts of the hearers, that none of them, though a great auditory, were in the time of their ministry, or since, ever leavened with any corrupt doctrine, or heretical principle, which is much as to these times wherein we live, which God grant may still continue.

¹ Farmer, Felt, and others, say July 3d.—H.]

² Rev. John Norton. See page 274.—H.