

sion had taken upon them to join themselves together in a particular company by themselves, and did administer all ordinances amongst themselves in a schismatical way : yea, though some, that had taken upon them the power of such administrations, were themselves under the sentence of excommunication from other churches, which formerly they belonged unto. This company, continuing their assembling together, after they had been warned by the Court to forbear, were sentenced by the Court to be disfranchised if they were freemen, and, if they obstinately continued in their practice, to be committed to prison upon conviction before one magistrate, or the County Court, until the General Court should take further order. By this severity it was expected they should have been restrained, but it proved otherwise. The bent of all men's natures makes it true, *nitimur in vetitum*, and like waters that are pent up, they swell the more, so came it to pass with these persons who would not forbear, unless the laws had been sharpened to a greater degree of severity than the authority of the place were willing to execute on that account.¹

CHAP. LXVIII.²

The General affairs of New England, from the year 1666 to 1671.

DURING this lustre of years there was little alteration in the government of the Massachusetts ; Mr. Bellingham holding the first place of government, as Mr. Willoughby did the second, to the end thereof. Nor was there any matters of great moment that happened, besides granting of liberty for several townships, unless the reverting of the Province of Maine to the government of the Massachusetts as heretofore ; the occasion and manner thereof shall presently be related.

In the year 1667 liberty was granted for erecting a new plantation or township, at a place about thirty or forty miles west from Roxbury, called Mendon, and peopled by some that removed from thence.³ There was another

¹ The first prosecution of the Anabaptists, according to Hutchinson, was in 1665. See Hist. Mass., i. 208 ; Coll. Papers, pp. 399-401.—H.

² LXVII in the MS.—H. ³ The Plantation was "granted in answer to Brantry petition" Oct. 18, 1660, and was incorporated by its present name, May 15, 1667.—H.

like grant the same year at Brookfield, a commodious place for entertainment of travellers betwixt the Massachusetts and Connecticut, situate about twenty-five miles from Springfield, toward Boston; the liberty had been granted before, in the year 1660, but it was renewed this year, six or seven families being settled there. The grantees having forfeited their first grant, the ordering of the place fell into the Court's power, which was no disadvantage of the township, the management thereof being by the Court committed to the care of two or three prudent persons, fitter to carry on a design of that nature than the whole village was.

These two villages last named were erected in an unhappy hour, for before ten years were expired they were utterly ruined and destroyed by the Indians, and not one stick left standing of any building erected there; as may be seen more at large in the narrative of the troubles with the Indians. Marlborough, ten miles beyond Sudbury, ||in|| the road towards Connecticut, (a plat of which was this year laid out and presented to the Court,) escaped very hardly, one half thereof being in like manner destroyed by the barbarous Indians in the years 1675 and 1676. Another village was granted likewise about this time, called Westfield,¹ seven miles westward from Springfield, which hardly escaped the fury of the Indians in that late rebellion.

In the year 1666 two hundred and fifty persons, driven off from St. Christophers, and coming to Boston, were there relieved till they could be transported back to some of the Caribbee Islands, or otherwise disposed of according to their desire. In the following year certain informations being brought to the Massachusetts of some distress his Majesty's fleet was in, at the Caribbee Islands, for want of provision, a motion was made by some merchants of the said place for sending away present supply; which being quickened by the General Court at Boston, was forthwith despatched away, and came seasonably to their relief.

In the year 1670 a law was made in the Massachusetts for giving liberty to administrators to sell lands for payment of the debts of the deceased, with the leave of the Court; an order very just and necessary to make

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¹ First settled, from Springfield, in 1658-9.—H.

men honest, and careful to pay their debts before they leave the world, in that place where men often die seized of much land, and little other estates, so as creditors would be extremely damnified, without the provision of some such law.

CHAP. LXIX.¹

The Province of Maine returns to the government of the Massachusetts: the occasion and manner, how it was brought about.

THE government of the Province of Maine, called Yorkshire, having been interrupted² for near three years, and the people there like to be reduced to a confused anarchy, for want of a settled order of government, upon some application made to the General Court of the Massachusetts, by some principal persons in the said Province, the Court counted it their duty to God and the King to declare their resolution to exert their power and jurisdiction over the Province or County of York, as formerly; and did accordingly, in the year 1668, set out a Declaration to require the inhabitants there settled, to yield obedience to the laws of their jurisdiction, as they had been orderly published, and to issue out warrants for choosing officers, in order to settling affairs there, as in times past; which was done accordingly, and Commissioners appointed to keep a Court in the usual manner and time as before, ordering Nathaniel Masterson, the Marshal, to require the constable to publish the said order. The Commissioners, appointed by the General Court to manage the business, were Major John Leverett [and] Mr. Edward Ting, Assistants, Mr. Richard Waldron and Major Robert Pike.

And to prevent misinformation about that affair, it is thought meet to annex hereunto an authentic copy of the Court's order to the said Commissioners, with a relation of the procedure therein, forasmuch as the same hath been publicly misrecited, to the disadvantage of the Mas-

¹ LXVIII in the MS.—H.

² We have seen (pp. 542-3) that a portion of the Province of Maine submitted to Mass. in 1652-3. But the inhabitants east of Saco River, being mostly Episcopalians, strenuously maintained their independence, nor was it until July 13, 1658, that "the inhabitants of Black Point, Blue Point, Spurwinke, and Casco Bay, with all the Islands thereunto belonging," would acknowledge themselves subject to the jurisdiction of Mass. See Maine Hist. Coll. i. 57-62, 290-4.—H.